



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office



Europe Faculty

Working with Europe and the EU

– A New Context

Practitioner Level Training Course
organised by the European Institute of Public Administration
(EIPA), Maastricht on behalf of
the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

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3.5

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1



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Interactive exercise: Identifying your interlocutors - who is in charge of what in the EU's system of external action

(Open) strategic autonomy



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2

“The real victim of this affair is the Atlantic alliance...
If our allies have abandoned us in difficult,
if not dramatic, circumstances, they would be
capable of doing it again if Europe in turn
found itself in danger,,



Christian Pineau
French Foreign Minister,
November 1956

3

Strategic Autonomy (I)

The Strategy nurtures the ambition of **strategic autonomy** for the European Union. This is necessary to promote the common interests of our citizens, as well as our principles and values.

An appropriate level of ambition and **strategic autonomy** is important for Europe's ability to promote peace and security within and beyond its borders.

A sustainable, innovative and competitive European defence industry is essential for Europe's **strategic autonomy** and for a credible CSDP.

Shared Vision, Common Action:
A Stronger Europe

A Global Strategy for the
European Union's Foreign And Security Policy



4

The 'BPT factor'



5

Strategic Autonomy (I) - security & defence

- Capacities ? Price tag?
- Strategic vision? Political will ?
- Questions of trust & leadership



6



DEFENDING EUROPE:
Improving Military Mobility in the European Union

#EUdefence

"By 2025 we need a fully-fledged European Defence Union."

President Juncker, State of the Union Address, September 2017

Creating a fully-fledged European Defence Union by 2025 is imperative to Europe's security and to build a **Union that protects**. A smooth, efficient and effective movement of military personnel and assets across and beyond the EU will enhance the EU's preparedness and response to crises. It will enable EU Member States to act faster, in line with their defence needs and responsibilities, both in the context of the Common Security and Defence Policy missions and operations, and in the framework of national and multinational activities. Currently, cross-border mobility is still hampered by a number of barriers that can lead to delays, disruption, higher costs or increased vulnerability.

7

The path towards a Defence Union (I)

- 06/2016: EU Global Strategy (EUGS)
- 07/2016: EU-NATO Warsaw Joint Declaration
- 09/2016: Decision to set up MPCC
- 11/2016: EUGS implementation plan on security and defence
- 11/2016: European Defence Action Plan
- 12/2016: Common set of 42 actions for the implementation of the EU-NATO joint Declaration
- 05/2017: Agreement on Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD)
- 06/2017: Launch European Defence Fund
- 12/2017: Launch of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)
- 01/2021: Setting up of DG DEFIS (EC)
- 03/2021: Establishing of the European Peace Facility (EPF)
- 03/2022: Adoption of the "Strategic Compass"

8

The EU's strategic compass

The EU is facing new and increasing threats and challenges. To counter them, protect its citizens, and enhance its strategic autonomy to become a stronger global partner, the EU needs to define what kind of security and defence actor it wants to be.

ADDRESSING THREATS TO THE EU'S SECURITY

As a first step to determine the direction of travel, the EU has conducted for the first time a comprehensive analysis on key threats and challenges to Europe, including:

Global and regional threats

Conflicts in our neighbourhood

Challenges by state actors

Threats by non-state actors

The Threat Analysis is a classified intelligence report identifying key trends:

Global level: slowdown of globalisation, growing economic rivalry between global powers, climate change and competition for resources, migratory pressures, and threats to the multilateral system.

Regional level: regional instability, conflict, state fragility, inter-state tensions, external influences, destabilising impact of non-state actors.

Threats against the EU: state and non-state actors targeting the EU with hybrid tools, including disruptive technologies, disinformation, and other non-military sources of influence; terrorist threat.

DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC COMPASS TO GUIDE OUR ACTIONS

The Strategic Compass will help strengthen a common European security and defence culture and help define the right objectives and concrete goals for our policies.

The Strategic Compass will address four different, inter-linked areas:

Crisis management missions

Resilience

Capabilities and Instruments

Working with partners


JUNE 2020
Tasking by Council

1st HALF OF 2021
Strategic dialogue with Member States

EARLY 2022
Adoption of Strategic Compass


NOVEMBER 2020
Threat analysis

2nd HALF OF 2021
Development of Strategic Compass



A STRATEGIC COMPASS FOR SECURITY AND DEFENCE

For a European Union that protects its citizens, values and interests and contributes to international peace and security



9

The European Defence Community (EDC), 1952-1954

The Pleven Plan 1950



10

Strategic autonomy (II)

Updated 19:52, 22-Mar-2020

CGTN

Share      



Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic greeted Chinese doctors who arrived in Serbia on Saturday, kissing the Chinese flag in a show of gratitude for the country's timely support against COVID-19.

"The arrival of Chinese health professionals is of great importance to us because they were the first to defeat the great enemy of today: COVID-19," Vucic said.

11

Strategic autonomy (II)

	Conventional perspective	Global perspective
Strategic autonomy for...	Security & Defence	Security & Defence, Trade & Industry, Digitalization, Climate, Health
Strategic autonomy from...	United States	United States, China, other emerging powers and economies
Strategic autonomy to...	Act militarily in Europe's neighbourhood, protect Europe	Promote European interests and values
Drivers	US structural pivot, transatlantic uncertainties	Rise of China and rivalry with US, technological change
Inter-organizational relations	NATO	NATO, UN, WTO
Alternative concepts	Strategic responsibility, ability to act	Open strategic autonomy (trade), European sovereignty (tech, industry)
Principal dividing lines	Threat perception & ties to the US	Political economy / Free market vs. state intervention

Source: FIIA Working Paper 119: EU strategic autonomy: A reality check for Europe's global agenda, Helsinki, 2020.

12

Before....

European Commission blocks Siemens-Alstom merger

THE European Commission (EC) announced on February 6 that it has blocked the merger of Siemens Mobility and Alstom on the grounds that the two companies have failed to address its concerns over the potential impact of the deal on competition in the signalling and high-speed rolling stock markets.



C 528/10

EN

Official Journal of the European Union

30.12.2021

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION

Criteria for the analysis of the compatibility with the internal market of State aid to promote the execution of important projects of common European interest

EU competition
Siemens an

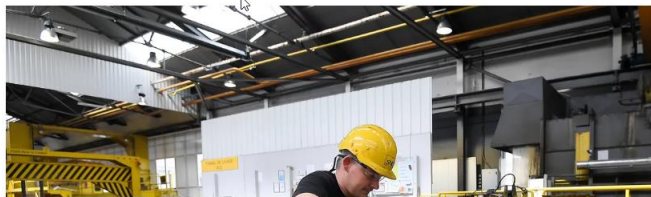
And after....

FROM POLITICO PRO

INDUSTRIAL EVOLUTION

Goodbye competition. Hello industrial strategy.

Paris and Berlin want strategy to prioritize industrial 'champions' over antitrust rulebook.



13



English EN

Search

Home > Press corner > An EU approach to enhance economic security



Available languages: English

Press release | 20 June 2023 | Brussels

An EU approach to enhance economic security *

Assessment of four key economic security risks:

- supply chains
- critical infrastructure
- technology leakage
- coercion

14

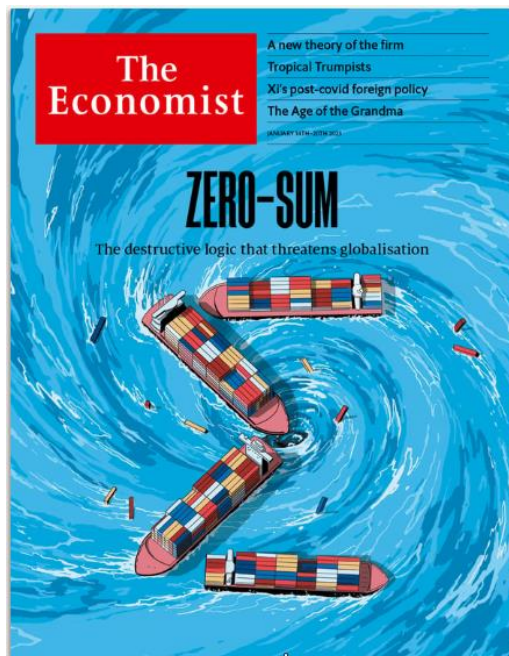
Commission proposes new rules to ensure stable supply of critical medicines



15



16



17

17

From “strategic autonomy” to “open strategic autonomy”

- Trade & Industry, Digitalization, Climate, Health...
- Focusing on “decreasing levels of reliance”
- Global interdependence: source of conflict or harmony?
- “open strategic autonomy” as best of two worlds?
- Risk of diluting the EU’s leverage on others?
- Do autonomy and formal sovereignty buy external leverage?

18

Strategic Autonomy (III)



The path towards a Defence Union (cont)

- 03/2022: Adoption of the "Strategic Compass"
- 04/2023: Decision to allocate € 1 bn for procurement of ammunition to Ukraine (EPF)
- 07/2023: Adoption of ASAP Regulation (Act Supporting Ammunitions Production)
- 10/2023: Adoption of EDIRPA Regulation (instrument for the reinforcement of the European defence industry through common procurement)
- 03/2024: European Defence Industrial Strategy (EDIS)
- 12/2024: EU Commissioner for Defence
- 03/2025: Commission White Paper on Defence

Strategic autonomy (IV)



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Strategic autonomy (IV)

Resolution ES-11/7 of 24/2/2025

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UNITED NATIONS

UN calls for peaceful resolution of Russia's war on Ukraine

At the UN General Assembly, the US aligned with Russia in opposing a European-backed Ukrainian resolution that condemned Moscow's aggression and called for the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops.

93

IN FAVOUR

18

AGAINST

65

ABSTENTIONS

AFGHANISTAN	CAMEROON	FINLAND	KUWAIT	NEPAL	SAUDI ARABIA	UKRAINE
ALBANIA	CANADA	FRANCE	KYRGYZSTAN	NETHERLAND...	SENEGAL	UNITED ARA...
ALGERIA	CENTRAL AF...	GABON	LAO PDR	NEW ZEALAND	SERBIA	UNITED KING...
ANDORRA	CHAD	GAMBIA	LATVIA	NICARAGUA	SEYCHELLES	UNITED REP T...
ANGOLA	CHILE	GEORGIA	LEBANON	NIGER	SIERRA LEONE	UNITED STAT...
ANTIGUA-BA...	CHINA	GERMANY	LESOTHO	NIGERIA	SINGAPORE	URUGUAY
ARGENTINA	COLOMBIA	GHANA	LIBERIA	NORTH MAC...	SLOVAKIA	UZBEKISTAN
ARMENIA	COMOROS	GREECE	LIBYA	NORWAY	SLOVENIA	VANUATU
AUSTRALIA	CONGO	GRENADA	LIECHTENSTEIN	OMAN	SOLOMON IS...	VENEZUELA
AUSTRIA	COSTA RICA	GUATEMALA	LTUHANIA	PAKISTAN	SOMALIA	VIET NAM
AZERBAIJAN	COTE D'IVOIRE	GUINEA	LUXEMBOURG	PALAU	SOUTH AFRICA	YEMEN
BAHAMAS	CROATIA	GUINEA-BISS...	MADAGASCAR	PANAMA	SOUTH SUDAN	ZAMBIA
BAHRAIN	CUBA	GUYANA	MADEWAI	PAPUA NEW ...	SPAIN	ZIMBABWE
BALEIN	CYPRUS	HAITI	MALAWI	PARAGUAY	SRI LANKA	
BARBADOS	CZECHIA	HONDURAS	MALAYSIA	PERU	SUDAN	
BELGIUM	DEM PR OF K...	HUNGARY	MALDIVES	PHILIPPINES	SURINAME	
BELIZE	DEM REP OF ...	ICELAND	MALI	POLAND	SWEDEN	
BENIN	DENMARK	INDIA	MARSHALL IS...	PORTUGAL	SWITZERLAND	
BHUTAN	DJIBOUTI	INDONESIA	MAURITANIA	QATAR	SYRIAN ARA...	
BOLIVIA	DOMINICA	IRAN (ISLAMI...	MAURITIUS	REP OF KOREA	TAJIKISTAN	
BOSNIA-HER...	DOMINICAN ...	IRAQ	MEXICO	REP OF MOL...	THAILAND	
BOTSWANA	ECUADOR	IRELAND	MICRONESIA...	ROMANIA	TIMOR-LESTE	
BRAZIL	EGYPT	ISRAEL	MONACO	RUSSIAN FED...	TOGO	
BRUNEI DAR...	EL SALVADOR	ITALY	MONGOLIA	RWANDA	TONGA	
BULGARIA	EQUATORIAL...	JAMAICA	MONTENEGRO	SAINT KITTS ...	TRINIDAD-TO...	
BURKINA FASO	ERITREA	JAPAN	MOROCCO	SAINT LUCIA	TUNISIA	
BURUNDI	ESTONIA	JORDAN	MOZAMBIQUE	SAINT VINCE...	TURKEMENIST...	
CABO VERDE	ESWATINI	KAZAKHSTAN	MYANMAR	SAMOA	TUVALU	
CAMBODIA	ETHIOPIA	KENYA	NAMIBIA	SAN MARINO	TURKEY	
	FUJI	KIRIBATI	NAURU	SAO TOME-P...	UGANDA	

'Watershed moment': EU leaders agree plan for huge rise in defence spending

Leaders endorse Ursula von der Leyen proposal as French president calls Vladimir Putin 'an imperialist who seeks to rewrite history'



EU leaders pledge support to Ukraine and boost defence spending - video

European leaders holding emergency talks in Brussels have agreed on a massive increase to defence spending, amid a drive to shore up support for Ukraine after Donald Trump **halted US military aid** and intelligence sharing.

Learning points day 3

- EU external policies: difficulty of overlapping competences
- Lisbon Treaty contribution to more "coherence and consistency" of external action: HR/VP, EEAS
- Strategic rethink after 2016 as result of the "permacrisis" and external factors ("BPT/BCT"): Readjustment of the balance between interests and values, translates into all areas of external action
- Trade policy increasingly driven by security imperatives
- Strategic autonomy: formal autonomy vs international leverage
- EU contributing to international norms at 3 levels: unilateral ("Brussels effect"), bilateral and multilateral (diplomacy; international agreements)
- Increasing importance of informal fora (G7, TTC, EPC) due to political blockages at multilateral level (UN, WTO)



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27



**Do You Have
Any Questions?**

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28