

Revitalizing CSDP

towards a comprehensive, realistic and credible Defence in the EU

In the context of a degraded security environment, recent armed attacks in particular in Paris, Brussels or even more recently in Nice, Ansbach or Würzburg, and France's invocation of article 42.7 TEU on November 2015, it is high time to strengthen our solidarity and European capacities in defence, to more effectively protect our borders and EU citizens, and to contribute to peace and stability in our neighborhood. Military and non-military threats to EU citizens and EU territory are real. They deserve sufficient attention and means to effectively contribute to security and defence of EU citizens and values. Whilst the primary responsibility for defence policy lies with the EU Member States, we recognize that cooperation between them must be deepened whenever it brings more efficiency in order to strengthen effectiveness and enhance security for the benefit of the EU and its Member States alike.

The EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy (EUGS), whose presentation has been welcomed by the European Council on 29 June 2016, calls for a stronger Europe in security and defence matters, European strategic autonomy and a credible, rapid, effective and responsive CSDP.

This strategy has to be translated now into concrete action plans on the short term, especially in the field of security and defence. A specific follow-up document has to be tasked as soon as possible, in addition to the EU Commission Defence Action Plan.

In this context, *France and Germany* would like to table some concrete proposals for our way to a comprehensive, realistic and credible Defence in the European Union.

This includes support to CSDP military deployment, to develop military capacities and European defence cooperation as well as a concrete support to the European defence industry, while promoting strategic autonomy and a strong, competitive and innovative EDTIB.

Our relationship with our European, African and North African partners, in particular, should be further enhanced in order to support them to achieve peace, security and development in key areas, especially the Mediterranean, West Africa and the Sahel, the Central African Republic and the Horn of Africa where our common security is at stake.

Now is the time to deepen our cooperation, making the best possible use of the whole potential of EU Treaties. Given that the United Kingdom has decided to leave the European Union, it is now our goal to proceed at 27.

We suggest developing a clear roadmap for reinforcing CSDP at 27 in a transparent, inclusive fashion - open for all EU Member States. In this sense, some of our

proposals should also be considered in the framework of PESCO which has an important leverage to fulfill the objectives defined by the recently published EUGS.

PESCO is an instrument created by the Lisbon Treaty and has not been used until now. It seeks to make CSDP stronger, more effective and more efficient; and this is to the benefit of all Member States. Participation in PESCO is voluntary, inclusive and remains open. Once agreed, clear goals and benchmarks will create a binding commitment allowing for a true step forward in CSDP.

We could present a roadmap during the *informal Defence Ministers Meeting* of 26/27 September 2016 in Bratislava, aiming at a positive decision during the next meeting of EU Defence Ministers on 15 November 2016. The *European Council* of December 2016 could then endorse the work done and give it the political push.

More broadly, political guidance to security and defence should be given at the *European Council* of December 2016, based on substantial Council conclusions to be adopted by the *Foreign Affairs Council/FAC Defence* of 14-15 November 2016.

To ensure an appropriate follow on of such actions, as well as to give the necessary political impetus for security and defence issues, which are of primary importance for all EU citizens, we call on the President of the European Council, the High Representative, the President of the EU Commission and EU Member States to regularly dedicate EC meetings to the issue of security and defence.

1. Enhancing European Security and Defence

For the past 13 years, CSDP military missions and operations have proven their relevance and added-values. EU training missions in Somalia or in Mali, EU Operation NAVFOR ATALANTA or more recently EUFOR and EUMAM in CAR, as well as EU NAVFOR MED Sophia, have been effectively achieving peace and security in cooperation with our partners. So far they have been missing the appropriate tool to answer equipment needs, which is a concrete deliverable expected from the CBSD initiative. They also demonstrated the need to promote a soft mechanism to pre-identify trainers and advisors to constitute possible candidates for future force generations to EUTM/EUMAM.

The EU has the unique ability to use and combine military and civilian instruments. Ideally, this should be reflected in the process of strategic and operational planning of CSDP missions and operations.

- The strategic planning capability should remain within the European External Action Service (EEAS) Crisis management structures and the chain of command under the political control of the Political and Security Committee (PSC) of the European Union. We reiterate that a permanent EU HQ for military and civilian CSDP missions and operations – a permanent EU military

planning and conduct capability and a permanent EU civilian planning and conduct capability – remains our mid-term objective.

- Taking into account the already existing *Framework document between the EU and EUROCORPS*, we aim at further strengthening the EUROCORPS. In a first step, the EUROCORPS could, inter alia, support the EU with the required expertise for training, mentoring, advisory and assistance missions, in implementing and managing a mechanism to pre-identify trainers and advisors, as well as to foster capability development for armed forces, missions/operations and deployable command and control (C2)-structures. Our mid-term objective would be to put at the EU's disposal adequate capabilities at the tactical/operational level for the planning and conduct of military CSDP missions and operations. EUROCORPS continues to stand ready to support NATO, when appropriate.

The following incentives should also be explored to support CSDP effectiveness:

- European Medical Command. Firstly, support the CSDP deployments with urgently required but until now limited medical resources for missions and operations (e.g. deployable Role-2-capabilities, medical command and control (C2)-structures, etc.). Secondly, contribute to coordination, synergies and interoperability of the different medical services of EU Member States;
- We should also explore ways to establish strategic European transport capacities (land/air/sea) as a possible future European logistic hub. Models such as the European Air Transport Command (EATC) should be considered to this end. We support the ongoing work of the European Defence Agency (EDA) in this context.
- Situational awareness, including maritime situational awareness in the context of implementing the EU Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS) in some key strategic areas for European security. To this end, France and Germany intend to propose to relevant EU institutions, services and agencies a cooperation framework to grant better access to the satellite imagery provided by the common observation satellite system programme (Composante Spatiale Optique - CSO) and the German satellite system (Synthetic Aperture Radar - SARah) via the EU Satellite Centre (EU SATCEN). This initiative could also strengthen the capacity of the EU Border and Coast Guard Agency to protect Europe's borders. A specific maritime situational awareness should be further developed within the EU, as called upon by the EU Maritime Security Strategy (EUMSS), based on the existing institutions and agencies such as the European Commission, European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), the EU Border and Coast Guard Agency, EU Intelligence Analysis

Centre (EU INTCEN), EU Satellite Centre (EU SATCEN), European Defence Agency (EDA);

- Officers training. A European Basic Training for officer cadets or a European Staff Course could be envisaged. Starting with a first course at one of the existing officer schools we could enhance the already existing *European Officers Network* in order to develop a truly European spirit among our officers.
- We also aim at expanding the scope of common financing benefitting CSDP military missions and operations. With a view to the ATHENA mechanism review in 2017, we will present a common proposal until December 2016.
- Moreover, in line with the EU-Africa Summit Declaration of 3 April 2014, an effective partnership with African countries in the field of security and defence should be further developed in order to enhance their capacities to act autonomously and in partnership for their own security, as well as to promote international peace and security within, amongst others, UN engagements. To this end, we would support an appropriate EU policy and adequate funding for the development of investments of African countries and organizations in the field of defence. This initiative could be based on existing facilities such as the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), a future dedicated instrument in the context of CBSD, the African Peace Facility (APF) or the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, and on CSDP missions and operations.

2. Speed up the implementation of European Council conclusions 2013 and 2015

We reiterate our full commitment to the implementation of the 2013 and 2015 European Council conclusions in defence matters:

- Implementing fully the initiative on Capacity building in support of security and development (CBSD) in order to finance on the short-term identified pilot projects, and through a new dedicated EU common financial instrument as soon as possible;
- Introducing a fully-fledged and EU-funded CSDP-related defence-orientated research programme in the next Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027; starting with the Preparatory Action which must receive an appropriate governance as well as an adequate budget of 90 € Mio for the 2017-2019 period as proposed by the European Commission;
- Intensify EU-NATO cooperation, particularly in the field of cyber, countering hybrid threats, intelligence and situational awareness. In this context, we strongly welcome the joint EU-NATO declaration of 8 July 2016 and recognize

that a stronger and more capable European defence will also lead to a stronger NATO.

- Further improving the deployability of EU Battlegroups by strengthening their ability to perform initial entry operations;
- Improve the force generation process for EU missions and operations.

3. Defence cooperation and a strong, competitive and innovative EDTIB

The Defence of Europe shall rely on a strong, competitive and innovative European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB) and foster the development of genuine European economic actors, while taking into account the necessity to maintain strong ties among all kinds of enterprises in the field of defence, including big enterprises and SMEs, in the context of enhanced supply chains.

- The focus of 20% of defence investment should be a guiding principle for our national budgets in order to engage adequate funding in the future of our Defence.
- We call on the European Commission and the European Defence Agency (EDA) to stimulate defence cooperation among EU Member States through appropriate incentives including by non market-distorting fiscal measures. In particular, the ongoing work of the European Defence Agency (EDA) and European Commission services on financial incentives, including on the possibility of European Investment Bank (EIB) financing, should be further developed.
- France and Germany will continue and take forward their efforts in the four key capabilities identified in the European Council Conclusions of 2013, Air-to-Air refueling (AAR) capacity, Satellite Communication, Cyber and Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS “Eurodrone”), with the support of the European Defence Agency (EDA).
- France and Germany also plead to increase cooperation through more coordination and transparency of defence capability development and defence budgets among EU Member States, on a voluntary basis, with a view to identifying further capability development programs and foster possibilities of European cooperation. This process would be supported adequately by the European Defence Agency (EDA), in the context of a “European Defence Semester”. We call on the High Representative to further examine this idea and present appropriate plans to this end.

Our aim must remain to achieve defence cooperation wherever possible and desirable, on the basis of sufficient spending on defence investments and EU support.

The new EUGS calls on Member States to enhance their cooperation and to “mak[e] full use of the Lisbon Treaty’s potential”. Now, we believe it is time to start an inclusive initiative based on EU Treaties at best at 27 to enhance CSDP, including the use of PESCO.

The Defence of European countries matters for the protection of EU citizens and the credibility of the European Union as a whole.