

## Boudewijn de Bruin: The EU is not an end in itself, but a means to peace

### Background information on existing regulations/policy issues/initiatives

**Keywords:** *EU common defense; EU foreign policy; EU foreign relations; EU global strategy; EU joint army, EU joint defense force; EU military cooperation; EU military and security cooperation; EU-NATO cooperation; EU security strategy*

### Topic: The EU should not pursue any deeper integration but rather focus on preventing war in Europe

#### Overview

- One of the main objectives of the EU since its inception has been the prevention of armed conflict within the European continent and amongst member states. This commitment is constantly underlined by EU officials and in public communication documents:
  - Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy: “Promoting peace and guaranteeing the security of our citizens are our first priorities as European Union”<sup>1</sup>
- Similarly, EU officials recognize the need of expanding the Union in order to guarantee stability in the direct neighborhood (f.e. the Balkan region):
  - Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission: “If we do not open up to countries in that highly complicated and tragic region, and if we do not open up a European perspective to them, we will see war returning to that area as we saw in the 1990s”<sup>2</sup>
- However, security cooperation and promoting peace is only one of many objectives that the EU normally pursues, f.e. the deepening of economic cooperation, the promotion of human rights, etc.

#### In detail

With regards to the strengthening of security cooperation, the promotion of peace and stability and the potential initiation of a Joint European Military Force, the EU has taken a number of measures in the recent past, including:

- The initiation of “The EU Global Strategy” as outlined by EU High Representative Federica Mogherini in June 2016<sup>3</sup>  
**Content:** Global Strategy’s Pushes for a European Union of security and defence, in

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<sup>1</sup> [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-2521\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-2521_en.htm)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-eu-france-juncker-balkans/western-balkans-need-eu-path-to-prevent-new-wars-juncker-idUSKBN1HO15C>

<sup>3</sup> <https://europa.eu/globalstrategy/en/comments-analysis?type=comment>

complementarity with NATO and other partners

Summary: <https://europa.eu/globalstrategy/en/global-strategy-promote-citizens-interests>

- Publication of the “Joint Communication on improving military mobility in the EU”<sup>4</sup>  
Content: Aims at facilitating the movement of military troops and assets inside the EU and to build a more effective, responsive and joined-up Union  
Summary: <https://ec.europa.eu/transport/sites/transport/files/join20170041-improving-military-mobility.pdf>
- Communications on the creation of a European Defense Fund (COM/2017/0295)  
Content: Sets out the measures needed to achieve greater European defence cooperation and support the competitiveness of Europe’s defence industry and proposes the establishment of a European Defence Fund  
Full document: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52017DC0295>  
Related documents: Communications on a European Defense Action Plan (COM/2016/0295), accessible via: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52016DC0950>

With regards to the external security structure and the EUs global role in preventing conflict and fostering a peaceful neighborhood – while at the same time strengthening defense capabilities, EU-NATO cooperation has also taken center stage in policy talks and official EU documentation<sup>5</sup>

- The role of NATO in the security architecture of the EU European Parliament resolution of 19 February 2009 on the role of NATO in the security architecture of the EU (2008/2197(INI))  
Content: Outlines the relationship between the EU and NATO as well as possibilities of future cooperation  
Full document: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52009IP0076>
- European Parliament resolution of 12 September 2013 on EU’s military structures: state of play and future prospects (2012/2319(INI))  
Content: Notes the EU’s insufficient capacity to respond to international crises in a timely and efficient manner, in spite of its long-standing commitment to preserving peace, safeguarding human rights, preventing conflicts and strengthening international security  
Full document: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52013IP0381>

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<sup>4</sup> [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-17-4385\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-4385_en.htm)

<sup>5</sup> [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-Homepage/28286/eu-nato-cooperation-factsheet\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-Homepage/28286/eu-nato-cooperation-factsheet_en)

## Further reading

- [https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/implementation\\_plan\\_on\\_security\\_and\\_defence\\_18-10-2017.pdf](https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/implementation_plan_on_security_and_defence_18-10-2017.pdf)[https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/mpcc\\_factsheet.pdf](https://eeas.europa.eu/sites/eeas/files/mpcc_factsheet.pdf)
- <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/legislative-train/theme-europe-as-a-stronger-global-actor/file-european-defence-union>
- [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-Homepage/28286/eu-nato-cooperation-factsheet\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-Homepage/28286/eu-nato-cooperation-factsheet_en)