



STRATEGIC COMPASS

A STRATEGIC COMPASS FOR SECURITY AND DEFENCE

The EU needs to become a stronger and more capable actor in security and defence: both to protect the security of its citizens and to act in crisis situations that affect the EU's values and interests. With the Strategic Compass, Member States agree on a common strategic vision for the EU's role in security and defence and commit to a set of concrete and wide-ranging objectives to achieve these goals in the coming 5-10 years.



“Europe must learn to speak the language of power. Over the next decade, we will make a quantum leap to become a more assertive and decisive security provider, better prepared to tackle present and future threats and challenges.”

JOSEP BORRELL

High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/
Vice-President of the European Commission

The world we face

A common strategic vision requires a common understanding of the threats and challenges the EU will face in the foreseeable future. The work on the Strategic Compass was therefore kicked-off in November 2020 with the EU's first-ever comprehensive threat analysis. In sum, it describes a European and global security landscape that is more volatile, complex and fragmented than ever due to multi-layered threats. This threat analysis will be regularly updated and developments since its finalisation, in particular the Russian military aggression against Ukraine, have been taken into account in the final Strategic Compass.



Global level

Slowdown of globalisation, growing economic and political rivalry between global powers, climate change, competition for resources, instrumentalisation of irregular migration, and threats to the multilateral system.



Regional level

Traditional military threats and armed aggression, destabilising interference/actions of state and non-state actors, conflict, state fragility, and inter-state tensions and external influences.



Threats against the EU

State and non-state actors targeting the EU with hybrid tools, including the misuse of disruptive technologies, cyber-attacks, disinformation, and other non-military sources of malign influence, and terrorism.



THE EU AS SECURITY PROVIDER, GLOBAL ACTOR AND PARTNER IN SECURITY AND DEFENCE

A united European commitment for a strong EU in security and defence is as crucial as ever. Building on a common sense of purpose and responsibility, the Strategic Compass specifies clear targets and milestones in four work strands:

ACT

- Up to 5,000 strong EU Rapid Deployment Capacity
- Live exercises on land and at sea
- Enhance Military Mobility
- Reinforce civilian and military CSDP missions and operations
- More rapid and flexible decision-making

SECURE

- Hybrid Toolbox and Response Teams
- Cyber Diplomatic Toolbox and Cyber Defence Policy
- Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference Toolbox
- EU Space Strategy for Security and Defence
- Coordinated Maritime Presences around the world



- Spend more and better - defence spending and incentives for cooperation
- Strategic enablers and next generation capabilities
- Boost defence technological innovation to reduce strategic dependencies

- Strengthened strategic partnership with NATO and the UN
- Cooperation with regional partners (OSCE, AU, ASEAN)
- Strong bilateral partnerships
- Military assistance to partners through the European Peace Facility

INVEST

PARTNER

