

European Union Institute for Security Studies

ANNUAL REPORT



2020

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THE EUISS IN 2020

2020 will be associated with the coronavirus pandemic for the foreseeable future. While Covid-19 hit regions across the world with diverging intensity and pace, most if not all countries had to adapt. The resulting 'new normal' challenged the way we work, move around, and manage our daily lives.

For the Institute, 2020 was a year of adaptation. It had to find alternative ways to carry out its analysis, maintain its engagement with researchers and policymakers, and disseminate findings. Restrictions on international travel meant that on the ground research and fact-finding missions were no longer possible. Limitations on the number of people who could assemble meant that in-person events were no longer a viable option as of mid-March 2020.

The Institute took two principal avenues to adapt to Covid-19. First, it tweaked its research plan for 2020 by introducing additional space for analysis on the geopolitical implications of Covid-19. The Institute also ensured that already planned research products considered how Covid-19 and intensifying geopolitical trends might affect the issue being examined – highlighting implications for the EU.

Second, like most other institutions, the Institute went 'virtual' to maintain a certain level of exchanges. A positive benefit of transitioning to online events was the ability to attract a greater number of participants from distant locations. Examples of large-scale events held in 2020 include the conference "Navigating a Pandemic World: Global Disorders and Europe's Role" co-organised with Carnegie Europe and featuring HR/VP Borrell as well as the "Closing the Gap" cyber event featuring Commissioner Mariya Gabriel and Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defence Philippe Goffin. Both these events garnered hundreds of viewers from across the world.

As a novelty in 2020, the Institute launched its first podcast series. This format allowed the Institute to reach out to its existing audience and gain new listeners throughout the year. Overall, 19 episodes were recorded and launched. Organised across three series, they covered topics such as strategic foresight applied to a specific issue area as well as two mini-series focusing on China and Russia. With over 6,000 downloads, the podcasts had an average of nearly 350 listeners per episode.



BUDGET

As to the distribution of 2020 costs per different cost categories, EUR 3,921,868 or 77% of total expenditures in 2020 were related to staff costs, EUR 160,886 or 3% to operational activities and EUR 1,024,361 or 20% to administrative costs.

Actual expenditures per Budget Chapters (2018-2020)

		2020		2019		2018	
Budget Chapter		EUR	%	EUR	%	EUR	%
Chapter 1 Staff Costs		3,921,868	77	3,796,784	77	3,566,499	75
Chapter 2 Operational Costs		160,886	3	299,731	6	323,542	7
Chapter 3 Administrative Costs		1,024,361	20	840,062	17	848,777	18
Auministrative Costs	Total	5,107,115	100	4,936,577	100	4,738,818	100



PUBLICATIONS

In 2020 the Institute produced 32 publications. Overall, the breakdown of EUISS publications was as follows:

3 BOOKS

- > The CSDP in 2020: The EU's legacy and ambition in security and defence, edited by Daniel Fiott, was published in April. This book looked back over the last 20 years of CSDP, highlighting the key historical developments and charting the evolution of the CSDP over two decades.
- > Turning the tide: how to rescue transatlantic relations, a multi-author volume edited by Simona R. Soare, was published in late October just ahead of the US presidential elections. This book examines how the transatlantic partnership can be revived and provides an overarching view of the major factors and trends that are likely to shape transatlantic relations as the 2020s unfold.
- > The 2020 Yearbook of European Security (by Daniel Fiott and Vassilis Theodosopoulos) was published in December. As with former editions, this volume provided an overview of events in the previous year that were significant for European security and charted major developments in the EU's external action and security and defence policy.

6 CHAILLOT PAPERS

In 2020 the Institute published six *Chaillot Papers* altogether:

- > CP 157, "What if ...? 14 futures for 2024", edited by Florence Gaub (January)
- > CP 158, "African Strategies: European and global approaches towards sub-Saharan Africa", edited by Giovanni Faleg and Carlo Palleschi (June)
- > CP 159, "Russian Futures 2030: the shape of things to come", edited by Sinikukka Saari and Stanislav Secrieru (August)
- > CP 160, "Relationship therapy: making Arab police reform work", by Florence Gaub and Alex Walsh (November)
- > CP 161, "Conflicts to come: 15 scenarios for 2030", edited by Florence Gaub(December)
- > CP 162, "How Covid-19 changed the future: geopolitical implications for Europe", by Florence Gaub and Lotje Boswinkel (December)

21 EUISS BRIEFS

In total, the Institute published 21 Briefs over the course of 2020, covering a wide spectrum of issues ranging from the impact of Covid-19 on conflict dynamics to the digitalisation of defence, and encompassing regions as diverse as Russia, Yemen, Japan, China, Sahel and the Arctic.

2 REPORTS

- > The European space sector as an enabler of EU strategic autonomy, by Daniel Fiott.
- > Geopolitical implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, by Florence Gaub, Lotje Boswinkel

January	
Chaillot Paper	What if? 14 futures for 2024
Brief	Revitalising the NPT
February	
Brief (Conflict Series)	Devil in the detail: Local versus regional approaches to peace in Donbas
March	
Brief	Digital divide? Transatlantic defence cooperation on AI
Book	The CSDP in 2020: The EU's legacy and ambition in security and defence
Brief	Russia's forays into sub-Saharan Africa
Brief	A Black list is (almost) born: Building a resilient human rights sanctions regime
Brief	Digitalising Defence: Protecting Europe in the age of quantum computing and the cloud
April	
Brief (Conflict Series)	Cyber conflict uncoded: The EU and conflict prevention in cyberspace
Brief (Conflict Series)	Beyond Yemen's militiadoms: Restarting from local agency
Brief	Arctic stress test: Great power competition and Euro-Atlantic defence in the High North
May	
Brief	Towards urban decoupling? China's smart city ambitions at the time of Covid-19
Brief	Who's first wins? International crisis response to Covid-19
Brief	The Butterfly Effect: Why does Eastern Europe matter to Japan?
June	
Brief (Conflict Series)	From bad to worse? The impact(s) of Covid-19 on conflict dynamics
Brief (Geopolitical Series)	Deciphering China in the Middle East
Chaillot Paper	African Strategies: European and global approaches towards sub- Saharan Africa

July	
Brief (Geopolitical Series)	Under pressure: can Belarus resist Russian coercion?
Brief	Uncharted territory? Towards a common threat analysis and a Strategic Compass for EU security and defence
Brief	The EU's chemical weapons sanctions regime: Upholding a taboo under attack
August	
Brief	Stand by me! The Sino-Russian normative partnership in action
Brief	Unboxing the future: Finding the futures hidden in plain sight
September	
Chaillot Paper	Russian Futures 2030: The shape of things to come
Report	Geopolitical implications of the COVID-19 pandemic
October	
Book	Turning the tide: How to rescue transatlantic relations
November	
Chaillot Paper	Relationship therapy: making Arab police reform work
December	
Brief (Conflict Series)	Sahel climate conflicts? When (fighting) climate change fuels terrorism
Book	Yearbook of European Security 2020
Report	The European space sector as an enabler of EU strategic autonomy
Brief	Sovereignty over Supply? The EU's ability to manage critical dependencies while engaging with the world
Chaillot Paper	Conflicts to come: 15 scenarios for 2030
Chaillot Paper	How Covid-19 changed the future: geopolitical implications for Europe

BOOKS

The CSDP in 2020: The EU's legacy and ambition in security and defence

> By Daniel Fiott (March 2020)

This book provides an analytical overview of the key historical CSDP developments and critically appraises the last two decades. A host of leading think tank analysts and a senior EU official look at issues such as institutional design, operations and missions, capabilities, industry and civilian crisis management.

Turning the tide: how to rescue transatlantic relations

> By Simona R. Soare (October 2020)

This book examines how the transatlantic partnership can be revived and offers an overarching view of the major factors and trends that are likely to shape transatlantic relations as the 2020s unfold. The book offers concrete policy recommendations in a number of key areas for launching a new EU-US transatlantic agenda, such as such as defence cooperation, EU-NATO, sanctions, parliamentary diplomacy, space and technology cooperation, engagements in the Indo-Pacific and Arctic, democracy promotion and climate change.

2020 Yearbook

> By Daniel Fiott (December 2020)

The 2020 Yearbook of European Security provides an overview of events in 2019 that were significant for European security and it charts major developments in the EU's external action and security and defence policy. The 2020 Yearbook of European Security contains region – and issue–specific sections, content–centric timelines, key EU document sources, information

boxes and an index. In order to enrich the reading experience, this year's edition of the book also includes references to various EU-ISS analytical publications that were produced throughout 2019.

CHAILLOT PAPERS

What if...? 14 futures for 2024 (N° 157)

Edited by Florence Gaub. With contributions from Alice Ekman, Giovanni Faleg, Daniel Fiott, Gustav Lindstrom, Katariina Mustasilta, Roderick Parkes, Patryk Pawlak, Clara Portela, Sinikukka Saari, Stanislav Secrieru, Simona R. Soare, Nathalie Van Raemdonck, John-Joseph Wilkins (January 2020)

This Chaillot Paper proposes 14 different portraits of the future for the year 2024. The scenarios do not just depict a desirable future, but include pathways and concrete recommendations on how to get there. The scenarios outlined here therefore amount to more than strategic foresight since they are highly operational; in addition, they describe futures that are just beginning in 2024, but which will have wide-ranging positive repercussions in the decades beyond that date.

African Strategies: European and global approaches towards sub-Saharan Africa (N° 158)

 Edited by Giovanni Faleg and Carlo Palleschi (June 2020)

This *Chaillot Paper* analyses the evolution of EU member states' strategies towards sub-Saharan Africa, as well as those of global actors, against the backdrop of systemic changes, including the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic. It seeks to identify the points of convergence

- and divergence - in member states' strategies, and examines how a coherent, joint EU strategy can be achieved.

Russian Futures 2030: The shape of things to come (N° 159)

 Edited by Sinikukka Saari and Stanislav Secrieru (September 2020)

This *Chaillot Paper* seeks to provide readers with ambitious foresight analysis and insights on how to be prepared for unexpected twists and turns in Russia's future trajectory.

Relationship therapy: making Arab police reform work (N° 160)

> By Florence Gaub and Alex Walsh (November 2020)

This Chaillot Paper looks at the police in the Arab world — an institution at the centre of political life but one that is very much under-researched. After years of attempts at reform, it seems that not much progress has been made in reducing corruption and violence, or increasing police efficiency. Why is it so hard to reform an institution so deeply embedded in the daily lives of citizens?

Conflicts to come: 15 scenarios for 2030 (N° 161)

> Edited by Florence Gaub (December 2020)

The volume presents 15 fictionalised scenarios that imagine how future conflicts might occur.

These scenarios contribute to, and at times challenge, the existing body of assumptions concerning the genesis of conflict, its likelihood and how it might play out.

How Covid-19 changed the future (N°162)

> By Florence Gaub and Lotje Boswinkel (December 2020)

This *Chaillot Paper* examines two dimensions: it assesses the geopolitical trends the pandemic is perceived as having accelerated, and the scope for innovation and far-reaching change induced by the crisis.

BRIEFS

Revitalising the NPT

> By Clara Portela (January 2020)

In the run-up to the 2020 Review Conference of the NPT, this Brief assesses the EU's record as a non-proliferation actor and seeks to identify how the EU can rebuild its credibility in this role given the difficulties encountered in obtaining a consensus at the 2015 RevCon. It argues that in order to overcome divisions among a polarised membership, the EU could support the moderate faction promoting the middle ground and develop a *modus vivendi* with the 'Ban Treaty' – the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons – with a view to fostering an agenda of gradual progress towards nuclear disarmament.

Devil in the detail: local versus regional approaches to peace in Donbas

> By Karen Madoian (February 2020)

The Brief analyses the peace efforts in Ukraine and argues that it would be in the country's interest to continue decentralising and strengthening local governance structures, including in the east. But how does Moscow view this?

Digital divide? Transatlantic defence cooperation on Al

> By Simona R. Soare (March 2020)

In the wake of the Artificial Intelligence Strategy unveiled by the US Department of Defense in 2019, this Brief examines the implications of the initiative for Europe and for transatlantic defence cooperation. It argues that Europeans need to develop a strategy for military innovation, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), while the transatlantic partners need to design a common approach to AI governance.

Digitalising defence: protecting Europe in the age of quantum computing and the cloud

> By Daniel Fiott (March 2020)

Digital technologies can vastly improve the operational readiness and effectiveness of Europe's armed forces. As this Brief shows, however, the EU needs to better understand the risks and opportunities involved in the digitalisation of defence and it needs to financially invest in its technological sovereignty.

Building a resilient human rights sanctions regime

> By Clara Portela (March 2020)

This Brief discusses plans to create a new EU sanctions regime addressing gross human rights violations. It examines the various challenges surrounding the initiative and its implementation, and argues that the way forward could be to disaggregate the proposed sanctions regimes into two separate strands: one dealing with breaches of international humanitarian law and a second addressing human rights abuses linked to large-scale transnational corruption.

Russia's forays into sub-Saharan Africa

 By Giovanni Faleg and Stanislav Secrieru (March 2020)

Russia is mounting a remarkable political comeback in sub-Saharan Africa through a 'low costs, high returns and visibility' approach. Can a coherent strategy be discerned behind this push? And how is sub-Saharan Africa reacting to Russia's overtures and what does it mean for the EU?

Cyber conflict uncoded

> By Patryk Pawlak, Eneken Tikk, Mika Kerttunen (April 2020)



The complex nature of cyber conflicts makes it difficult to design effective, targeted conflict prevention instruments. Yet existing approaches to prevent conflict in cyberspace have, so far, brought about very little change in state behaviour. How might the EU lead the way in preventing conflicts from escalating or breaking out?

Beyond Yemen's militiadoms

> By Eleonora Ardemagni (April 2020)



In Yemen's fragmented political landscape, militias and other armed groups have come to

play a prominent role in the country's security governance. The Brief analyses the intertwined layers of conflict in Yemen and their implications for war resolution efforts, arguing that reforming the state on the basis of a decentralisation of power is key to rebuilding national institutions and achieving peace.

Arctic stress test

> By Simona R. Soare (April 2020)

In the three decades after the Cold War, the perception of 'Arctic exceptionalism', the sense that the Arctic region is immune from broader geopolitical tensions, prevailed. However, this notion is currently being challenged: climate change is accelerating the opening of new maritime trade routes and exploitation of natural resources in the region, while great power competition between the US, Russia and China in the Arctic is intensifying, changing regional power dynamics.

Towards urban decoupling? China's smart city ambitions at the time of Covid-19

> By Alice Ekman, Cristina de Esperanza Picardo (May 2020)

China is rapidly consolidating its expertise in building smart/safe cities, with the Covid-19 crisis significantly accelerating this trend. The crisis has also seen China step up its activism in the global promotion, donation and export of some of its smart city technologies with dual-use capabilities. What risks does this pose for Europe?

Who's first wins? International crisis response to Covid-19

> By Florence Gaub, Lotje Boswinkel (May 2020) China has sought to demonstrate that its authoritarian political system has been more efficient at dealing with the coronavirus crisis than Western liberal democratic systems. This Brief argues that predispositional factors — notably the demographic and age profile of a country — as well as whether a state had been previously exposed to a pandemic or not, were more important in shaping the authorities' response than the political system in place.

The Butterfly Effect: why does Eastern Europe matter to Japan?

> By Daisuke Kitade (May 2020)

In recent years Japan has sought to rekindle diplomatic, political and economic ties with Eastern Europe. This Brief examines how Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 may have motivated this charm offensive, prompted by Tokyo's fears that such aggression could potentially be replicated in the Far East, as well as by concerns about transfers of military technology from Eastern Europe to China and the weakening of the global non-proliferation regime.

From bad to worse? The impact(s) of Covid-19 on conflict dynamics CONFLINATION OF CONFLINATIO

> By Katariina Mustasilta (June 2020)

The global crisis caused by the Covid-19 outbreak has had particularly disruptive consequences for conflict-affected countries around the world. Armed groups have capitalised on the crisis, while the global distraction caused by the pandemic has made it difficult to seize opportunities for peace. The Brief analyses key repercussions in conflict-affected countries in general, and in five countries in particular: Colombia, Libya, Sudan, Ukraine and Yemen.

Deciphering China in the Middle East

> By Erzsébet N. Rózsa (June 2020)

GEOPOLITICALSERIES

Beijing's new activism in the Middle East reflects the evolution of Chinese foreign policy thinking. Economic goals rather than ideological considerations have become key criteria in China's selection of partners in the region, especially those which can provide the energy resources necessary to fuel China's continued dynamic growth. Although as yet China is not overtly seeking to displace the US as the dominant power in the region, its penetration of the Middle East inevitably has far-reaching foreign policy and security implications.

Under pressure: can Belarus resist Russian coercion?

> By Anaïs Marin (July 2020)

This Brief analyses the current dynamics underpinning the Belarusian-Russian relationship and its possible future trajectory in the light of new factors which limit Belarus's room for foreign policy manoeuvre. It highlights how, under increasing pressure from Russia and faced with domestic challenges, President Lukashenka may be hard-pressed to maintain the delicate balancing act that he has performed up to now to ensure his regime's survival.

Uncharted territory? Towards a common threat analysis and a Strategic Compass for EU security and defence

> By Daniel Fiott (July 2020)

Despite the direction offered by the EU Global Strategy, there is as yet no common approach to how member state governments understand threats to the EU's security. Under the new

Strategic Compass initiative – designed to provide enhanced politico-strategic direction for EU security and defence – member state governments and institutions will conduct their own threat analysis as a first step in a 2-year process. This Brief examines how a clearer understanding of such threats can help the EU to achieve its level of ambition in this area.

The EU's chemical weapons sanctions regime

> By Clara Portela and Erica Moret (July 2020)

Concerns about the erosion of the 'taboo' on chemical weapons use have deepened in recent years, in particular following the chemical weapons attacks that have taken place in the Syrian conflict. The sanctions regime against the proliferation and use of chemical weapons which the EU adopted in October 2018 constitutes the Union's first coercive instrument against chemical weapons, and is an attempt by the EU to support the multilateral chemical disarmament regime after efforts to frame a response via the United Nations Security Council failed.

Stand by me! The Sino-Russian normative partnership in action

> By Alice Ekman, Sinikukka Saari, Stanislav Secrieru (August 2020)

GEOPOLITICALSERIES

China's and Russia's shared antagonism against the West fuels cooperation at bilateral and multilateral levels. In its normative dimension, this cooperation is driven by the overarching aim of defining and re-interpreting existing international norms in a way that reflects the two countries' shared principles, worldviews and threat perceptions. This Brief examines the intricacies of the Sino-Russian normative relationship and the key challenges it poses to the EU.

Unboxing the future

> By Joshua Polchar (August 2020)

Policy experts and decision-makers can improve their ability to think about the future in a number of ways, including by admitting that future developments may invalidate current assumptions and actions. This Brief shows how applying the discipline of strategic foresight to the field of security and foreign policy would promote a greater awareness of changes occurring in the present and enhance the ability to take wiser decisions.

Sahel climate conflicts? When (fighting) climate change fuels terrorism

> By Luca Raineri (December 2020)

Despite routine declarations that connect Sahelian terrorism to climatic and environmental factors, available scientific evidence does not allow us to conclude whether (and what) climatic factors impact (and how) conflict variability and terrorism. This Brief explores why.

Sovereignty over supply? The EU's ability to manage critical dependences while engaging with the world

 By Daniel Fiott and Vassilis Theodosopoulos (December 2020)

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic has heightened fears about the EU's trade, resources and technology dependencies. This Brief outlines the challenges facing the Union's supply security and explores how any EU trade

diversification strategy needs to tackle three core risk factors: state fragility, economic coercion and climate change.

REPORTS

The European space sector as an enabler of EU strategic autonomy

> By Daniel Fiott (December 2020)

This study looks at the ways in which the European space sector can be an enabler of EU strategic autonomy. It asks how should the EU understand space and strategic autonomy, what has the EU achieved in space, how this has contributed to the EU's strategic autonomy and what more is needed to enhance it.

Geopolitical implications of the Covid-19 pandemic

> By Florence Gaub and Lotje Boswinkel (September 2020)

This study explores both dimensions of the pandemic's impact: how does it affect the geopolitical context into which it erupted, and what possibility space does it open up? The first section assesses the geopolitical trends antedating the pandemic and measures its present and expected impact on them, while the second section lays out the space for action and change created by the disruption. In the third section, the interplay of trends and uncertainties is explored in three scenarios set in 2025: Strategic Distancing; Europe in Self-isolation; and Lock-down World.



PODCASTS

In 2020 the Institute launched the 'What if' podcast series, foreign policy foresight conversations run by the EUISS analysts on different topic subjects, including a series on the foreign policy implication of the Covid-19 crisis.

4 podcast series were published in 2020, for a total of 19 episodes and 6,383 downloads.

Season 1 **EUISS FORESIGHT PODCAST**

- > Episode 1: What if ... there was another American civil war?
- > Episode 2: What if ... another civil war became international?
- > Episode 3: What if ... Russia and Europe clashed in Africa?
- > Episode 4: What if ... Warren/Trump/Biden became president in 2021 - and what each means for the Middle East
- > Episode 5: What if ... Russia clashes with Ukraine in the Sea of Azov?
- > Episode 6: What if ... China and Russia partner up in cyberspace?

Season 2 **EUISS FORESIGHT PODCAST**

- > Episode 1: What if ... the internet didn't exist during a pandemic?
- > Episode 2: What if ... China uses the coronavirus crisis to promote its world vision?

- Episode 3: What if ... Covid-19 leads to a decline in remittances to Georgia, Ukraine & Moldova?
- > Episode 4: What if ... Putin mismanages Covid-19?
- > Episode 5: What if ... Covid-19 leads to an escalation of conflicts?
- > Episode 6: What if ... Africa was immune to Covid-19?
- > Episode 7: What if ... Covid-19 impacted the US presidential elections?

Season 3 **EUISS FORESIGHT PODCAST – CHINA MINI-SERIES**

- > Episode 1: What if ... China's diplomacy is more predictable than we think?
- > Episode 2: What if ... China wants to be a superpower?
- > Episode 3: What if ... China rode the techno-ticket to power?

Season 4 **EUISS FORESIGHT PODCAST – RUSSIA MINI-SERIES**

- Episode 1: What if ... the rift between decaying and poor rural Russia and the wealthy cosmopolitan metropolises continues to deepen and widen?
- > Episode 2: What if ... Russia becomes the 'Singapore of Steel' by 2030?
- > Episode 3: What if ... Russia tries to absorb Belarus?



FLAGSHIP EVENTS

The Institute organised the following five flagship events in 2020:

- > "2020: What's To Come?" Conference On Strategic Foresight.
- Virtual online event With HR/VP Borrell: "Navigating A Pandemic World: Global Disorders And Europe's Role"
- "Closing The Gap: International Conference On Digital, Cyber And Tech"
- > "EU Cyber Forum 2020"
- "Climate Change, Defence And Crisis Management: From Reflection To Action"

"2020: What's to come?" conference on strategic foresight (January 2020)



The EUISS organised its yearly foresight event entitled '2020 – What's to come?' on 24 January in Brussels. To stimulate future-oriented

thinking, three all-EUISS panels looked ahead at some of the major strategic challenges facing EU policymakers in 2020 and beyond. On the agenda were new relations with China, Russia and Africa, as well as upcoming elections, potential unrest, and key developments in defence, cyber, and sanctions policy.

Virtual online event with HR/ VP Borrell: "Navigating a Pandemic World: Global Disorders and Europe's Role" (July 2020)



On 9 July, the EUISS and Carnegie Europe co-organised a joint public discussion live streamed on YouTube (the livestream was watched 1,600 times).

HR/VP Borrell, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/ Vice-President of the European Commission, keynoted an international panel discussion with William J. Burns, Ling Jin, Elsie S. Kanza, and Moisés Naím to explore global challenges—from the return of strategic competition and geopolitics to the future of multilateralism—and what new roles could be imagined for Europe in the emerging international context.

Closing the gap: International conference on Digital, Cyber and Tech (July 2020



As part of the European Cyber Diplomacy Initiative, the EU Cyber Direct project, Egmont Institute, and the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in partnership with other research institutions organised an international conference for scholars, policy analysts and practitioners working on cyber-related issues.

EU Cyber Forum 2020 (September 2020)



From 14 to 17 September, the EUISS together with the EEAS, European Commission, European Cybercrime Centre and EU Agency for Cybersecurity - ENISA hosted the second edition of

the EU Cyber Forum. The event - organised as part of the EU Cyber Direct project - was opened by HR/VP Borrell, High Representative and Vice President of the European Commission.

Climate change, defence and crisis management: from reflection to action (December 2020)



On 11 December, the EUISS together with the EEAS, organised a high-level online event on climate change, defence and crisis management. The event follows the release of the EU Roadmap "Climate Change and Defence" on November 2020 and it welcomed senior officials from the EEAS, European Commission, EU member states, NATO, the UN, industry and partners. The event was opened by HR/VP Borrell.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

Africa

EUISS-COAFR Breakfast Meetings

The series of meetings on sub-Saharan Africa launched in 2019 by the EUISS and the European Council's Working Party on

Africa (COAFR), continued in 2020. Four meetings were held in 2020:

- > 21 January: Angola: an African country to watch in 2020;
- > 4 February: EU member states' strategies towards sub-Saharan Africa;

> 15 October: Russia in Africa

> 15 December: Turkey in Africa

SIPRI Virtual Forum – EUISS-led Session "African Geopolitics In Transformation: What Future For Peacebuilding"

On 18 May, the EUISS led a session at the Virtual Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development 2020. The discussion focused on the main trends that are shaping Africa's future, the transition processes that are taking place in many areas of the continent, and the challenges for peacebuilding and conflict prevention against evolving power relations between regional and global actors. A special emphasis was attached to the direct and indirect consequences of Covid-19 outbreak for conflict dynamics.

Debating stability in North Africa, the Sahel and Horn of Africa

The workshop 'Debating stability in North Africa, the Sahel and Horn of Africa: How transnational dynamics and geopolitics impact governance and development' took place in the morning of 22 September in Pisa, Italy and was jointly organised by the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies (SSSA), the European University Institute (EUI) and the EUISS.

Asia

Brainstorming session on 'China's rapidly changing diplomatic practices in the EU and third countries'

On 24 January, the EUISS and the EEAS co-organised a closed-door roundtable on China's rapidly changing diplomatic practices in the EU and third countries.

7th CSCAP EU Committee Meeting

On 8 July, the EUISS organised online the CSCAP EU annual coordination meeting and thematic workshop.

2020 EU-ROK Strategic Dialogue

The 2020 EU-ROK Strategic Dialogue was organised by the EUISS in cooperation with the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security of the Korean National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA) and held on 6 November. Held annually, this was the 7th edition of the Dialogue organised by the two partners.

EU-Australia track 1.5 Strategic Dialogue

The first EU-Australia track 1.5 Strategic Dialogue was organised jointly by the EUISS and the Lowy Institute and held online on 8 December 2020. It gathered 45 senior officials and experts from both the European Union and Australia to exchange perspectives, perceptions, and concerns on the Indo-Pacific concepts and strategies. The closed-door event also provided opportunities to share information and analysis on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in the region, and recovery measures taken so far by both the EU and Australia.

Russia and the eastern neighbourhood

Workshop on Russia's futures 2030

On 16 January, the EUISS organised a workshop on Russia's futures 2030 in Paris.

EU-Russia Relations: A discussion about the future

On 2 March, the EUISS and the EEAS co-organised a closed-door brainstorming discussion in Brussels to discuss the future of EU-Russia relations.

Eastern Partnership at 10:

The Way Forward?

On 7 February, the EUISS and Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) co-organised in Rome a panel discussion on the future of the Eastern Partnership.

Is the Eastern Partnership still relevant for Ukraine?

On 19 February, the EUISS and the New Europe Center co-organised a public discussion on the Eastern Partnership in Kyiv. The EUISS presented the *Chaillot Paper* 'The Eastern Partnership a decade on: looking back, thinking ahead', published in 2019.

Cyber

Canada-Europe Track 1.5: emerging technology and cyber policy

On 19 February, the EUISS, Global Affairs Canada, the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) hosted the workshop 'Emerging Technology and Cyber Policy' in Brussels. The panelists discussed how emerging technology is impacting international peace

and security and how Canada and the EU can further cooperate to advance mutual interests in this domain.

Reflection Group on the future of the EU's cyber diplomacy

On 6-8 April, the EUISS organised a video-conference of the Reflection Group on the future of the EU's cyber diplomacy.

Under the EU cyber direct project

Second European Cyber Diplomacy Dialogue

The second meeting of the European Cyber Diplomacy Dialogue (ECDD) took place on 20–21 January 2020 in Florence, Italy, and was co-organised by the EU Cyber Direct project and the School of Transnational Governance at the European University Institute.

Towards a Global Cyber Resilience Regime: International Workshop

The EU Cyber Direct Project organised the third and final workshop of the Resilience package from 27 to 28 February in Berlin, Germany. The workshop brought together regional and cybersecurity experts from Asia, South America, Africa, Europe, Australia, and the United States.

Cybercrime and criminal justice in cyberspace

The aim of this series of seminars which took place from 15-26 June, is to contribute to the new process through the sharing of experience and good practices between criminal justice practitioners, who are to be the beneficiaries of a future UN treaty on cybercrime, and foreign policy experts, who will be involved in the negotiation of this treaty.

EU-ROK Cyber Consultations

On 8 October the EU Cyber Direct project and the National Security Research Institute (NSR) joined forces to organise the Track 1.5 EU-ROK Cyber Consultations 2020.

EU-India Cyber Consultations

On 29 October the EU Cyber Direct project and the Observer Research Foundation joined forces to organise a second edition of the Track 1.5 EU-India Cyber Consultations

EU-Africa Cyber Consultations

Online consultation organised by the EU Cyber Direct in cooperation with Research ICT Africa, CIPESA and Paradigm Initiative, held on 30 November.

Let's Talk Cyber: Informal Multistakeholder Cyber Dialogue

The EU Cyber Direct Project and the EU Institute for Security Studies were actively involved in the consortium of organisations and states that have initiated the Informal Multi-stakeholder Cyber Dialogue series #LetsTalkCyber. The objective of the virtual dialogue series is to support the ongoing discussions at the UN Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on developments in the field of information and communication technology (ICT) in the context of international security.

Sanctions

Building EU resilience against the extraterritorial effects of U.S. sanctions

On 4 March, the EUISS organised a workshop in Brussels under the Chatham House rule. The workshop brought together experts on sanctions from various disciplines, officials from member states and EU institutions.

Strategic foresight

What if...Russia and China become allies?

On 14 February, the EUISS hosted a foresight side event at the Munich Security Conference (MSC). The format was a scenario-based thematic dinner examining the question 'What if... Russia and China became allies?'.

Security and defence

Defending Europe: analysing the threats and strategic challenges facing the EU

On 26 February, the EUISS and the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the EU co-organised an informal, closed-door roundtable in Brussels focusing on the threats and strategic challenges facing the EU in the current geopolitical context. With a view to the forthcoming 'Strategic Compass', representatives from EU member states, institutions and think tanks debated how best to think of threats today and discussions focused on how the EU could design a 'threat analysis' as a basis for its level of ambition in security and defence.

Virtual Informal EU Consultations for the 2020 UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review

On 27 April, the EEAS (Human Rights, Global and Multilateral Issues Managing Directorate and the Directorate for an Integrated Approach to Security and Peace), the EU Delegation in New York and the European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, in cooperation with the EUISS, organised a half-day virtual exchange on current opportunities and challenges for sustaining peace as part of the 2020 UN Peacebuilding Architecture Review (UN PBA). The consultations, which were held virtually, gathered over a hundred peacebuilding partners, key stakeholders and EU member states.

Towards a Strategic Compass: Where is the EU heading on security and defence?

Working closely with DGRIS at the French Ministry of Armed Forces, past, present and future Presidencies of the Council of the EU and the European External Action Service, this virtual seminar, held on December 18, brought together approximately 50 senior decision-makers and think tank representatives for an in-depth discussion on the Strategic Compass.

Civilian CSDP compact

EUISS co-organised the 15th CSDP high-level course

From 14-18 December 2020, multiple EUISS analysts contributed to the fourth module of the 15th High-Level Course on the Common Security and Defence Policy ('Altiero Spinelli' promotion). Organised virtually in 2020, the EUISS worked alongside the European Security and Defence College, the Bulgarian Diplomatic Institute and the Centre of Excellence for Crisis Management and Disaster Response to provide quality training to senior officials from the EU, EU member states and partners.

Task Forces

African Futures 2030 Task Force

Launched by the EUISS in November 2019, the "African Futures 2030 Task Force" is composed of leading research institutions from Africa and Europe, and focuses on scenarios for continental free trade and economic integration. The main objective of the Task Force is to explore trends affecting the future of Africa in the next ten years, emphasising challenges and opportunities for policymaking. Meetings of the African Futures 2030 Task Force were held on February 13 in Rome, and on February 27 in Shrivenham, UK. Planned meetings in Addis Ababa (May) and Pretoria (September) were cancelled due to the Covid–19 pandemic.

Task Force on restrictive measures related to malicious activities in cyberspace

The European Union Cyber Diplomacy Toolbox mentions the possibility of adopting restrictive measures against actors engaged in malicious cyber activities detrimental to the interests of the EU and its member states. In an effort to support this process with an independent analysis and identification of lessons from other restrictive measures regimes, in December 2018 the EUISS launched a Task Force focusing on the following objectives:

- Mapping and comparative analysis of sanctions regimes developed to date by other countries and organisations
- > Defining the scope and elements of a potential EU sanctions regime
- > Defining the 'effectiveness' of restrictive measures in cyberspace.

Reflection Group on the future of the EU's cyber/digital diplomacy

Cyber and digital issues increasingly shape the EU's position globally. Therefore, consideration of the impact of cyber and digital issues on the EU's foreign and security policy should become an integral element of the EU's diplomacy. In order to help the EU better prepare for this new reality, the EUISS launched the Reflection Group composed of 15 experts from across Europe to draft a blueprint for the EU's international engagement on cyber and digital affairs. The Group met on May 5.

Networks

The Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (CSCAP)

Established in 1992-1993 and consisting of 21 full members, CSCAP is a non-governmental (Track 2) process for dialogue on security issues in the Asia Pacific. CSCAP provides an

informal mechanism for scholars, officials and others in their private capacities to discuss political and security issues and challenges facing the region. It also provides policy recommendations to various inter-governmental bodies, convenes regional and international meetings and establishes linkages with institutions and organisations in other parts of the world to exchange information, insights and experiences in the area of regional political-security cooperation. The CSCAP Steering Committee meets twice a year.

CSCAP FU

CSCAP-EU was admitted as a new member committee of CSCAP in 2013. Under the leadership of the EUISS, its role is to actively contribute to CSCAP activities by providing the best European expertise on key regional security issues.

On 8 July, the CSCAP EU Committee convened its seventh annual meeting in Brussels, focusing on US-China tensions and the impact of Covid-19 on global economic growth.

In its capacity as the coordinator of CSCAP EU, the EUISS ensured the participation of EU experts in various CSCAP Study Groups, such as the group on International Law and Cyberspace.

Detailed information about CSCAP EU can be found at:

> www.iss.europa.eu/ complimentary-category/cscap-eu

The EU Cyber Direct project

Funded by the Partnership Instrument, EU Cyber Direct supports EU cyber diplomacy efforts and consequently contributes to the development of a secure, stable and rights-based international order in cyberspace through extensive dialogues with strategic partners from Brazil, China, India, Japan, South Korea and the United

States, as well as regions of Latin America and the Asia-Pacific.

Throughout 2020, the project organised several events in bringing together governments and non-governmental actors to explore the main issues surrounding international law in cyberspace, norms of responsible state behaviour and confidence-building measures.

Detailed information about project activities and research can be found on the project website: www.eucyberdirect.eu

European Security and Defence College (ESDC)

> ESDC Alumni Seminar 2020: A stronger Europe in a world of challenges

On 21 February, the EUISS and the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) organised a seminar on the EU's position in an increasingly challenging international environment. Organised under the auspices of the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the EU and hosted by the European Commission, the EUISS and ESDC welcomed speakers from the European External Action Service, the European Parliamentary Research Service and academia, as well as former Heads of EU CSDP Missions. The audience was comprised of EU officials and representatives from the ESDC's alumni network.

> ESDC 15th CSDP high-level course

From 14-18 December 2020, multiple EUISS analysts contributed to the fourth module of the 15th High-Level Course on the Common Security and Defence Policy ('Altiero Spinelli' promotion). Organised virtually in 2020, the EUISS worked alongside the European Security and Defence College, the Bulgarian Diplomatic Institute and the Centre of Excellence for Crisis Management and Disaster Response to provide quality training to senior officials from the EU, EU member states and partners.

ONLINE PRESENCE AND OUTREACH

Over the course of 2020, the EUISS continued to develop its online presence via the website and its social media channels.

Increasing 12% from the previous year, the EU-ISS website had 333,672 visits over the course of 2020, with 87% of those visits originating in Europe. Some 51,821 unique downloads were made through the website, the most popular of which was 'The CSDP in 2020' book (downloaded 2,174 times), followed by the 'What if...? 14 futures for 2024' Chaillot Paper (downloaded 2,052 times) and the ESPAS 'Global Trends to 2030: Challenges and Choices for Europe' report (downloaded 1,366 times).

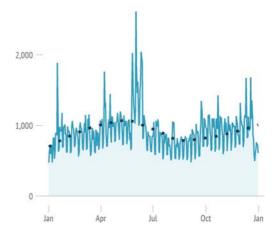
With regard to social media, the EUISS ended 2020 with:

- > 20,000 followers on LinkedIn
- > 26,000 followers on Twitter
- > 23,000 followers on Facebook

With the onset of Covid-19 in 2020, EUISS reliance on social media rapidly grew to become a crucial tool for content dissemination. Furthermore, the Institute adopted a virtual model and moved to online events and webinars, which were also promoted across all platforms on social media. As a result, in 2020, Twitter and LinkedIn saw a large increase in followers.

The continued use of data visualisations and videos, in addition to the broadening of EUISS output to include a podcast series, further consolidated the Institute's social media presence.

Visits to the EUISS website (2020)





EUISS TEAM

Director

Gustav Lindström

Deputy Director

Florence Gaub

Senior Analysts

Giovanni Faleg Roderick Parkes > until August 2020 Alice Ekman Stanislav Secrieru

Brussels-based Analysts

Daniel Fiott

- > Security and Defence Editor Patryk Pawlak
- > Brussels Executive Officer

Associate Analysts

Katariina Mustasilta Clara Portela Sinikukka Saari Simona R. Soare Nathalie Van Raemdonck

Trainees/Junior Analysts

January-September 2020

Fabio Barbero
Lotje Boswinkel
Cristina de Esperanza Picardo
Karol Luczka
Jack McCarthy
Mark McQuay
Carlo Palleschi
Jeanette Süss
Vassilis Theodosopoulos

October-December 2020

Nils Berglund Clémentine Lienard Federica Prandin Jeanne Ramier Sophie Reiss Marco Zeiss



ANNEX: OVERVIEW OF EUISS ACTIVITIES IN 2020

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

January	
16 Jan	Workshop on Russia's futures 2030
19-22 Jan	European Cyber Diplomacy Dialogue (2nd meeting)
21 Jan	6th EU-COAFR breakfast meeting: "Angola: an African country to watch in 2020"
24 Jan	EUISS Conference "2020: What's to come?"
24 Jan	Brainstorming session on China's rapidly changing diplomatic practices in the EU and third countries
February	
4 Feb	7th EU-COAFR breakfast meeting: "EU member states' strategies towards sub-Saharan Africa"
7 Feb	Eastern Partnership at 10: The Way Forward?
13 Feb	African Futures 2030: 2nd meeting of the African Futures 2030 Task Force
14 Feb	What ifRussia and China become allies?, EUISS side event of the 2020 Munich Security Conference
19 Feb	Is Eastern Partnership still relevant for Ukraine?
19 Feb	Canada-Europe Track 1.5: Emerging Tech and Cyber Policy
21 Feb	ESDC-EUISS alumni meeting: "A stronger Europe in a world of challenges"
26 Feb	Defending Europe: analysing the threats and strategic challenges facing the EU
27-28 Feb	Towards a global resilience regime
March	
2 Mar	EU-Russia Relations: A discussion about the future
9 Mar	Building EU resilience against the extraterritorial effects of U.S. sanctions
April	
6-8 Apr	VC of the Reflection Group on the future of the EU's cyber diplomacy
27 Apr	Informal Consultations for the UN PBA Review process

May	
5 May	Meeting of the Reflection Group on Global Digital and Cyber Engagement Strategy
18 May	EUISS webinar in the session "African geopolitics in transformation: what future for peace building" at SIPRI Virtual Forum
June	
15-26-Jun	Series of webinars on cybercrime
July	
8 Jul	7th CSCAP EU Annual Committee coordination meeting and thematic seminar
9 Jul	Navigating a Pandemic World: Global Disorders and Europe's Role
13-17 Jul	Closing the Gap conference
September	
14-15-Sept	EU Cyber Forum
22 Sep	Debating Stability in North Africa, the Sahel and Horn of Africa
October	
6-7 Oct	EU-ROK Cyber Consultations
15 Oct	8th EU-COAFR meeting "Russia in Africa"
27-28 Oct	EU-India Cyber Consultations
November	
6 Nov	2020 EU-ROK Strategic Dialogue
30 Nov	EU-Africa Consulations
December	
4-10 Dec	Let's Talk Cyber - Informal Multistakeholder Cyber Dialogue
8 Dec	EU-Australia track 1.5 Strategic Dialogue
11 Dec	Climate Change, defence and crisis management: from reflection to action
14 Dec	15th CSDP High-level course
15 Dec	9th EU-COAFR Meeting on "Turkey in Africa"
18 Dec	Towards a Strategic Compass: Where is the EU heading on security and defence?

