

THE PATH TO 2030

How will the Strategic Compass show the way on EU Security and Defence?

An event co-organised by the European Security and Defence College and the EU Institute for Security Studies.

25 February 2022, Belmont Building, Rue d'Arlon 62, 1046 Brussels, (Hybrid event)

CONCEPT NOTE

“Europe is in danger”. The threats facing the European Union (EU) are becoming more intense and urgent. Military threats in the eastern neighbourhood and continued instability and terrorism in the southern neighbourhood are challenging EU interests and security. At the same time, strategic competition is on the rise and the Union must find a role for itself among an increasingly multipolar world order. Domains that sustain the European economy such as space, cyber and maritime are increasingly contested strategic domains. Additionally, the EU has to counter foreign information manipulation, respond to hybrid threats and ensure cybersecurity and resilience. Finally, increasing strategic competition is increasingly bound up with questions related to technology. Here, the EU must ensure its ability to secure raw materials and supply chains, as well as to ensure its technological sovereignty. Put together, all these threats and challenges are testing the EU’s ability to help protect Europe.

2022 may prove to be a pivotal moment for EU security and defence. Not only has the French Presidency of the Council of the EU presented an ambitious agenda for the EU, but the Union will deliver its Strategic Compass to provide a pathway to a more robust, responsive and credible security and defence. In particular, the Compass offers an opportunity to rethink how the EU engages through its civilian and military missions and operations. The Compass should also help outline what more the Union can do in anticipating crises, being better prepared for rapid reaction and ensuring resilience in the maritime, space and cyber domains. In short, there is high expectations that the Compass will lead to a greater step forward in EU security and defence.

In this context, the European Security and Defence College and the EU Institute for Security Studies will use the 2022 ESDC Alumni Seminar to probe the potential of the Strategic Compass and the path to 2030. The event will bring together alumni of the ESDC with EU policy makers and officials to discuss the following questions:

1. How will the Strategic Compass alter the objectives of EU security and defence?
2. What are the main deliverables of the Compass and what specific projects should we expect?
3. What major strategic challenges should the EU expect over the coming decade?

PROGRAMME

10:00-10:10

INTRODUCTION

Dirk DUBOIS

Head, European Security and Defence College

Daniel FIOTT

Security and Defence Editor, EU Institute for Security Studies

10:10-10:30

KEYNOTE SPEECH

Stijn MOLS

Head, Security and Defence Policy, European External Action Service

10:30-12:00

PANEL DISCUSSION – THE PATH TO 2030

Moderator

Fernando MORENO

Head, Alumni Association

Speakers

Sven BISCOP

Director, Europe in the World Programme, Egmont Institute

Elena LAZAROU

Acting Head, External Policies, European Parliamentary Research Service

Nynke TIGCHELAAR

Deputy Head of Unit, DG DEFIS A1, European Commission

Jean-Pierre VAN AUBEL

Expert, Defence Policy and Strategy, European External Action Service

12:00-12:30

PRESENTATION OF THE 2021 GLOBAL STRATEGY PHD PRIZE

Dirk DUBOIS

Head, European Security and Defence College

Sven BISCOP

Director, Europe in the World Programme, Egmont Institute

Magnus CHRISTIANSSON

Senior Lecturer, Swedish Defence University

12:30-12:45

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Dirk DUBOIS

Head, European Security and Defence College