

A Strategic Compass for EU defence: What implications for the European defence industry?

An expert seminar co-organised by the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) and the Real Instituto Elcano, with the support of the Spanish Ministry of Defence.

09:00-11:30 CET, 18 May, 2021

CONCEPT

Since 2016, the EU has developed a range of new defence mechanisms that are designed to enhance the operational readiness of European armed forces and the EU's industrial competitiveness. The European Defence Fund and Permanent Structured Cooperation are both designed to ensure that the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB) can thrive in an increasingly geo-technological world.

To give these efforts greater focus, the EU is embarking on a Strategic Compass that is designed to give greater political and operational coherence to the EU as a crisis manager and partner through enhanced capabilities and resilience. Yet, this drive to enhance the EU's ambition in security and defence will surely raise defence industrial questions of great importance to the EU and its Member States.

To this end, the event partners seek to better understand the defence industrial implications of the Strategic Compass by fostering a debate on the role of the EDTIB in the Union's broader defence efforts. The event is to be structured around the following questions:

- > In what ways can the EDTIB be leveraged to ensure that the EU is a more effective actor in international affairs? What key defence technological areas should be prioritised to ensure that the EU can evolve into an effective defence actor?
- > How is the Strategic Compass perceived by Europe's defence industry and what level of ambition should the EU strike for? What are the concerns and opportunities that the Compass may give rise to?



PROGRAMME

09:00-09:15

Opening remarks

Elena GOMEZ

Director General, Defence Policy, Ministry of Defence, Spain

Gustav LINDSTROM

Director, EU Institute for Security Studies

Jose Juan RUIZ

Chairman, Real Instituto Elcano

09:15-10:15

Panel I – Maintaining Europe’s Geo-technological Edge in Defence

Trends such as increased global industrial competition, the growing relevance of critical technologies and sectors and the Covid-19 pandemic may seriously challenge the health of the EDTIB. There is also a need to focus attention on the major defence capabilities and technological innovation needed in Europe today, especially in the context of the Strategic Compass. This first panel will address the following questions:

- 1) *How are ongoing geopolitical shifts and great power competition likely to change the way Europe thinks about defence capability development and technological innovation? How should the Strategic Compass address these trends?*
- 2) *How are global defence, space and critical commercial markets changing and how can Europe enhance its industrial competitiveness? What responses are required from the EU level to reduce technological vulnerabilities and enhance technological and innovation synergies?*

Speakers

Felix ARTEAGA

Senior Analyst, Real Elcano Institute

Diego DE OJEDA GARCIA-PARDO

Head of Unit, Foreign, Security and Defence Policy, Secretariat General, European Commission

Andrea GILLI

Senior Researcher, NATO Defence College

Moderator

Luis SIMON

Director of the Brussels Office and Senior Analyst, Real Instituto Elcano

10:15-10:20

Break

10:20-11:20

Panel II – The Strategic Compass and Europe's Defence Industry

If the Strategic Compass is to lead to greater coherence for operations and capability development, then there is a need to better understand what industrial and technological considerations should be kept in mind. This second panel will address the following questions:

- 1) *What are the key defence industrial factors that should be reflected in the Strategic Compass? What is the most effective way for the EU to develop capabilities while not missing out on important technological enablers such as digitalisation and cyber?*
- 2) *How does industry see the development of the Strategic Compass and what are the key defence industrial factors that should be kept in mind as the EU enhances its ambition for security and defence?*

Speakers

Emilio FAJARDO

Director, Industry, Synergies and Enablers, European Defence Agency

Anne FORT

Head of Unit, Defence Industry and Market Policy, DG DEFIS, European Commission

Pedro FUSTER GONZÁLEZ

Deputy Director General, Inspection, Regulation and Industrial Strategy, Ministry of Defence, Spain

Jan PIE

Secretary General, Aerospace and Defence Industries Association of Europe

Moderator

Daniel FIOTT

Security and Defence Editor, EU Institute for Security Studies

11:20-11:30

Concluding remarks

Gustav LINDSTROM

Director, EU Institute for Security Studies

Charles POWELL

Director, Real Instituto Elcano