

# European security in 2022: the 'year of defence'?

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An online seminar co-organised by the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) and the Direction générale des relations internationales et de la stratégie (DGRIS), French Ministry for the Armed Forces.

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09:30-13:00 CEST - 23 November 2021, Online, via Zoom

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## CONCEPT

2022 is shaping up to be a critical year for EU security and defence. In particular, by March 2022 the EU should endorse and present its Strategic Compass. This document will provide the EU with a strategic vision for its security and defence and pave the way to concrete actions that should boost the credibility and robustness of EU action. Additionally, the European Commission President's 2021 State of the Union speech referred to a number of pertinent defence initiatives. It is not hard to see why these initiatives are important, especially given the ongoing crises in the EU's neighbourhood and growing strategic competition.

It is for such reasons that 2022 has been billed in some quarters as the 'year of European defence?'. However, there is also a need to appreciate the wider context in which EU security and defence is being built. There remain questions about the nature of the transatlantic relationship, and the recent experiences of Afghanistan and 'AUKUS' raise important questions about Europe's ability to secure its own interests, principles and values. Learning the right lessons from these experiences will be essential for the EU. The EU clearly needs to respond to a world marked by conventional and unconventional threats, geopolitical competition and an erosion of global norms and values.

These are certainly issues that will need to be addressed by the incoming French Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2022. In particular, there is a pressing need to reflect on what type of crisis manager the EU should become, how it should protect its interests in strategic domains such as space and in what ways will it ensure that it can reduce harmful technological dependences through innovation. To this end, this online seminar seeks to stimulate a discussion between officials from EU Member States and Institutions, as well as providing a forum for think tank analysts to exchange views on the coming year in EU security and defence.

## PROGRAMME

09:30-10:00

### Welcome address

**Gustav LINDSTROM**

Director, EU Institute for Security Studies

**Alice GUITTON**

Director-General, DGRIS, Ministry for the Armed Forces, France

10:00-11:15

### Panel Session - the road to 2022: how is EU defence being shaped?

*Speakers*

**Uroš ZORKO**

Defence Policy Director, Ministry of Defence, Slovenia

**Diego DE OJEDA GARCIA PARDO**

Representative to the Political and Security Committee / Head of Unit, Foreign, Security and Defence Policy, Secretariat-General, European Commission

**Stijn MOLS**

Head, Security and Defence Policy Division, European External Action Service

**Guillaume OLLAGNIER**

Director, European, North American and Multilateral Affairs, DGRIS, Ministry for the Armed Forces, France

*Moderator*

**Daniel FIOTT**

Security and Defence Editor, EU Institute for Security Studies

11:15-11:30

### Break

11:30-12:30

### Working session I - space

*Facilitator*

**Ester SABATINO**

Research Analyst, International Institute for Strategic Studies

### Working session II - crisis management

*Facilitator*

**Dick ZANDEE**

Senior Research Fellow, Clingendael Institute

### Working session III - innovation

*Facilitator*

**Alice PANNIER**

Research Fellow, Head of the Geopolitics of Technology Programme, French Institute of International Relations

12:30-12:50

### Plenary session - the way ahead to 2022

12:50-13:00

### Concluding remarks

**Gustav LINDSTROM**

Director, EU Institute for Security Studies