

The Strategic Compass and capability development: Towards greater coherence?



A webinar co-organised by the Hungarian Ministry of Defence and the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS).

14:00-18:00 CEST, 28 September 2021



CONCEPT

The Strategic Compass offers an opportunity to increase the coherence of the EU's capability development process. Defence planners at the national level are confronted with a wide variety of EU documents and processes and it can be challenging to use these tools for national defence planning purposes. Building on existing EU processes and mechanisms there is a need to simplify and streamline the EU capability development process so that it can provide tangible inputs and guidance for national defence planning.

The Strategic Compass could also contribute to a further harmonisation of national, EU and NATO defence planning processes. For EU Member States in NATO, there is a need to build on the existing level of cooperation on capability development. Given the 'single set of forces' principle, and the finite nature of defence budgets in Europe, EU and NATO defence capability development processes need to be further enhanced.

To engage with these needs and issues, this webinar will address the following questions:

- > How to streamline the intricate number of EU prioritisation tools and institutional responsibilities? Is there a way of updating or replacing the Capability Development Mechanism by streamlining the Headline Goal and Capability Development Plan processes? How can political oversight of such processes be enhanced to ensure national ownership of capability development processes?
- > How to increase the impact of EU capability development processes on national defence planning? What practical steps can be taken and what are national best practices or lessons learned that can be drawn on? In what ways can the EU help alleviate the administrative burdens associated with defence planning at the national level?
- > For those EU Member States that are part of NATO, how can the EU and NATO enhance their capability development cooperation? How can EU capability development processes best meet EU and NATO capability requirements? In what ways can coherence with the NATO Defence Planning Process be further advanced? How can national defence planning processes effectively respond to EU and NATO requirements?

The Strategic Compass and capability development: Towards greater coherence?

PROGRAMME

14:00-14:10

Welcome remarks

Gustav LINDSTROM

Director, EU Institute for Security Studies

14:10-14:30

Keynote speech

Gergely NÉMETH

Defence Policy Director, Ministry of Defence, Hungary

14:30-16:00

Session I – Learning from national defence planning processes: best practices

Speakers

Captain (N) Christoph Otto CILIAX

Branch Head, Multinational Defence Planning, Ministry of Defence, Germany

Captain (N) José GALRITO

Head, Defence Strategic Planning Department, Ministry of Defence, Portugal

Katalin HORVÁTH

Acting Head, Capabilities, Ministry of Defence, Hungary

Captain (N) Antonio Jose POSADA GUERRA

Head, Force Planning Section, Plans Division of the Joint Staff, Ministry of Defence, Spain

Moderator

Daniel FIOTT

Security and Defence Editor, EU Institute for Security Studies

16:00-16:15

Break

16:15-17:45

Session II – Streamlining EU capability development processes: new methods

Speakers

Christian MÖLLING

Research Director, German Council on Foreign Relations

Olli RUUTU

Deputy Chief Executive, European Defence Agency

Colonel Carlos SANCHEZ LEDESMA

Branch Chief, Force Capability, EU Military Staff, EEAS

Jean-Pierre VAN AUBEL

Expert on Defence Policy and Strategy, Security and Defence Policy Division, EEAS

Moderator

Daniel FIOTT

Security and Defence Editor, EU Institute for Security Studies

17:45-18:00

Closing remarks

Gustav LINDSTROM

Director, EU Institute for Security Studies