

EUROPEAN DEFENCE COOPERATION IN A TIME OF WAR

Expert seminar co-organised by the Directorate General for International Relations and Strategy (DGRIS) and the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)

Monday, 12 June 2023, 11.30-17.00

French Ministry of the Armed Forces, 60, Boulevard du Général Martial Valin, 75015 Paris, France

CONCEPT NOTE

In the wake of Russia's unprovoked and illegal invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, EU defence cooperation has rapidly developed. Alongside the imposition of 11 EU sanctions packages against Russia and unprecedented levels of military and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, the French, Czech, and Swedish trio of Presidencies of the Council of the EU have overseen the first-ever joint EU financing and delivery of weapons and ammunition to a country at war, ambitious plans for joint procurement and significant increases in Member States' defence spending. Most importantly, the EU and strategic partners like NATO, the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Norway, Japan, and others remain united in their commitments to supporting Ukraine for 'as long as it takes'. Moreover, the first deliveries on the 2022 Strategic Compass could be recorded, including the establishment of a Hub for European Defence Innovation, adoption of a new EU Space Strategy for Security and Defence, an updated Maritime Security Strategy, and the third EU-NATO Joint Declaration. Furthermore, PESCO is advancing, and a fifth wave of PESCO projects have been selected by Ministers of Defence in May 2023 while the Commission has presented EDIRPA and ASAP and the 2023 Work Programme of the European Defence Fund will be opened for submissions in mid-June.

To many, the past year and a half has brought a historical shift in European defence cooperation. Some are calling it a 'strategic awakening', but still with limited evidence for a stronger EU role in defence. So where does European defence cooperation stand in June 2023? How does Sweden look back at the past six months of its Council Presidency, where has it seen progress, what challenges is it handing over to the upcoming Council Presidency of Spain? What are the Spanish defence priorities for the coming six months and of the new trio including Belgium and Hungary? What is clear is that the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine continues, and that the EU and Member States will have to keep advancing towards their defence objectives. Against this backdrop, the French Directorate General for International Relations and Strategy (DGRIS) and the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) are convening this expert seminar aimed at taking stock of current European defence realities and discussing respective priorities for the Spanish Council Presidency, and beyond.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

11.30-12.30

Registration and Welcome Lunch

12.30-13.00

INTRODUCTION – SETTING THE SCENE

Speakers

Bruno CUNAT

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

Gustav LINDSTROM

Director, EU Institute for Security Studies

13.00-14.30

PANEL DISCUSSION I – COUNCIL OF THE EU PRESIDENCIES IN TIMES OF WAR

Speakers

Filippa CHANTEREAU

Head of Euro-Atlantic Section, Department for Security Policy and International Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Sweden

Juan Bautista PÉREZ PUIG

Deputy Defence Policy Director for Plans and International Relations, Ministry of Defence, Spain

Laure BANSEPT

Sub-Director for European Defence Issues, Ministry of the Armed Forces, France

Thierry TARDY

Visiting Professor, College of Europe

Moderator

Jan Joel ANDERSSON

Senior Analyst, EU Institute for Security Studies

14.30-15.00

Coffee Break

15.00-16.30

PANEL DISCUSSION II – EUROPEAN DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND EUROPEAN PROCUREMENT

Speakers

Emilio FAJARDO

Director for Industry, Synergies & Enablers (ISE), European Defence Agency

Francois ARBAULT

Director, Defence Industry, DG DEFIS, European Commission

Burkard SCHMITT

Director of Defence and Security, Aerospace and Defence Industries Association Europe (ASD)

Moderator

Jan Joel ANDERSSON

Senior Analyst, EU Institute for Security Studies



16.30-17.00

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Speakers

Guillaume OLLAGNIER

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

Gustav LINDSTROM

Director, EU Institute for Security Studies

