

EU-NATO Cooperation and the Strategic Compass



An online conference co-organised by the Slovenian Ministry of Defence and the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) in the context of the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU.



09:00-13:30 CEST, 14 October 2021

CONCEPT

The European Union's (EU) cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) is set to prominently feature in the Union's Strategic Compass on security and defence. In each of the baskets, especially those related to resilience and partnerships, there will be scope to assess how the EU and NATO can better respond to complex crises and emergencies and the protection of Europe. As NATO also moves towards the revision of its own Strategic Concept, and with a view to enhancing the security of Europe and the transatlantic relationship, there is an opportunity for the EU and NATO to discuss a range of strategic issues.

Any discussion of EU-NATO relations has to take place against the backdrop of a broader strategic context in which European states are being called to take on more responsibility for their security. With the rise of China and the actions of Russia, as well as emerging disruptive technologies and climate change, there are new security challenges on the horizon. As a consequence, the EU increasingly understands that it may have to take on more responsibility for crisis situations in its near and wider neighbourhoods. Given this context and the shared memberships of EU and NATO by many European countries, this is an opportune moment to discuss the future of EU-NATO relations.

This conference will bring together senior government representatives, EU and NATO officials and think tankers to discuss the nature of EU-NATO relations. In particular, this online meeting is an opportunity to address the following questions:

- > What does the recent evacuation of Afghanistan tell us about EU-NATO coordination efforts to ensure the protection of citizens? Can the EU's Strategic Compass and a new NATO Strategic Concept contribute to an improved alignment of strategies or is there a need for a third Joint Declaration to create a link between the two strategic processes?
- > What lessons have been learned by the EU and NATO after the response to the Covid-19 health crisis and the climate-induced events in Europe such as wildfires and floods? Have these events altered the way in which the EU and NATO commonly anticipate threats and what can be done to better coordinate crisis response and strategic communication?
- > How can the EU and NATO commonly enhance the resilience of Europe in the face of hybrid threats and complex emergencies? What role is there for the EU and NATO to tackle the challenges and seize the opportunities of Emerging and Disruptive Technologies?

PROGRAMME

09:00-09:05 **Welcome remarks**

Gustav LINDSTROM

Director, EU Institute for Security Studies

09:05-09:30 **Keynote speeches**

Uroš LAMPRET

State Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Slovenia

Michel SOULA

Head, NATO - EU Partnership, Political Affairs and Security Policy Division, NATO

Alison WESTON

Head of Division, Partnerships and Task Force NATO, Security and Defence Policy, EEAS

09:30-11:00 **Session I – EU-NATO Cooperation and the New Strategic Context**

Speakers

Ruben-Erik DIAZ-PLAJA

Senior Policy Advisor, Policy Planning Unit, Office of the Secretary General, NATO

Bruno DUPRÉ

Defence and Security Advisor, Secretariat General, European External Action Service

Jana PUGLIERIN

Head of the Berlin Office, European Council on Foreign Relations

Anna VASSILEVA

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

Moderator

Daniel FIOTT

Security and Defence Editor, EU Institute for Security Studies

11:00-11:30 **Break**

11:30-13:00 **Session II – EU-NATO Cooperation, Crisis Response and Resilience**

Speakers

Khan JAHIER

Staff Officer, Enablement and Resilience Section, Defence Policy and Planning Division, NATO

Sander VAN DER SLUIS

Head, EU Division, Department of International Affairs, Ministry of Defence, the Netherlands

Alison WESTON

Head of Division, Partnerships and Task Force NATO, Security and Defence Policy, EEAS

Srečko ZAJC

Secretary, Defence Affairs Directorate, Ministry of Defence, Slovenia

Moderator

Daniel FIOTT

Security and Defence Editor, EU Institute for Security Studies

13:00-13:30 **Closing remarks**

Gustav LINDSTROM

Director, EU Institute for Security Studies

Mateja KIRN

Head of European Affairs Division, Defence Policy Directorate, Ministry of Defence, Slovenia