

**Committee: Council of EU Ministers (EU)**

**Issue: Reviving European Defense Cooperation**

**Student Officer: Dimitris Smyrnaios**

**Position: Deputy President**

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## **PERSONAL INTRODUCTION**

Dear delegates,

My name is Dimitris Smyrnaios and I am an upcoming 12<sup>th</sup> grader in Arsakeio High School of Thessaloniki. I will have the honor to serve as one of the Deputy Presidents in the Council of EU Ministers. I would like to welcome you in the 2<sup>nd</sup> DSTMUN and especially, in the Council of EU Ministers and congratulate you all for your choice to participate in this conference. I am really looking forward to the conference and I am eager to meet you all and see you debate upon our topics that the committee will examine.

The third topic you are to discuss, namely “Reviving European Defense Cooperation”, is an issue which has been coming under discussion for many years. Nowadays, the discussions upon this matter are at their peak and we expect the committee to have a really fruitful and interesting debate. You are not expected to find a permanent legally-binding solution to the topic, but you can challenge and influence other Nations with your already prepared ideas and measures.

Moving on, this Study Guide will help you with your research and your better understanding of this issue. You will find definitions of key terms, background information, some important events and previous attempts to solve this issue. Of course, you are expected to conduct further research concerning the topic, in order to be fully prepared for the conference.

Should you have any further questions regarding this topic, feel free to contact me at [dimitrissmyrneos10@gmail.com](mailto:dimitrissmyrneos10@gmail.com). I hope you will find all information useful, I wish you all good luck and I expect to see you all in the conference!

With regards,

Dimitris Smyrnaios

### TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The issue that you will be debating upon concerns the fostering of the European defense cooperation. The matter of the European Defense Cooperation is a topic that has concerned many European countries for decades, making it one of the most important issues in the Council of the EU Ministers. The goal of the European Defense Cooperation is to assure and strengthen Europe's defense from internal and external threats and conflicts. Therefore, EU has founded some organs that will play a decisive role, not only in Europe's defense, but also in all NATO Member States.

The European Defense has always been an issue due to the instabilities that Europe has faced throughout the years. Starting from 1991 until 2019, the EU Council has been giving tremendous attention to its defense and security system cooperation. Its aim is to respond to any external conflicts and crises and to protect all EU citizens. The defense system is a response to the 500 million European citizens who want more security, stability and a coordinated EU response to current threats. A current example is the EU military training missions called the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC), which is responsible for the operational planning and conduct of the EU's non-executive military missions. So, the defense cooperation of all EU countries has already solved some of its problems, but there are a lot of others unsolved.

### DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

#### **Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP)<sup>1</sup>**

"The Common Security and Defense System (CSDP) is the European Union's course of action in the fields of defense and crisis management."

#### **European Defense Agency (EDA)<sup>2</sup>**

"The European Defense Agency is an agency of the European Union that promotes and facilitates integration between member states within the European Union's Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP). The EDA is headed by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and reports to the Council."

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<sup>1</sup> "The Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)." *EEAS*, [eeas.europa.eu/topics/common-security-and-defence-policy-csdp\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/topics/common-security-and-defence-policy-csdp_en).

<sup>2</sup> *European Defence Agency*, [www.eda.europa.eu/home](http://www.eda.europa.eu/home).

**“European Defense Fund (EDF)”<sup>3</sup>**

“The European Defense Fund is a fund managed by the European Union, which tries to coordinate and increase investment in defense research and to improve relations between national forces”

**“Coordinated Annual Review on Defense (CARD)”<sup>4</sup>**

“The Coordinated Annual Review on Defense is a process of monitoring the defense plans of each European Union member state to help coordinate spending and identify possible collaborative projects.”

**“Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)”<sup>5</sup>**

“The Permanent Structured Cooperation is the part of the European Union’s security and defense policy in which 25 of the 28 national armed forces pursue structural integration.”

**“Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC)”<sup>6</sup>**

“The Military Planning and Conduct Capability is a permanent operational headquarters (OHQ) at the military strategic level of military operations of up to 2500 troops.”

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<sup>3</sup> “European Defence Fund.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 14 May 2019, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European\_Defence\_Fund., “European Defence Fund.” *European Commission - European Commission*, 20 Mar. 2019, ec.europa.eu/commission/news/european-defence-fund-2019-mar-19\_en.

<sup>4</sup> *Alternate Text*,

[www.eda.europa.eu/what-we-do/our-current-priorities/coordinated-annual-review-on-defence-\(card\)](http://www.eda.europa.eu/what-we-do/our-current-priorities/coordinated-annual-review-on-defence-(card)).

<sup>5</sup> “Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO).” *Permanent Structured Cooperation*, [www.eda.europa.eu/what-we-do/our-current-priorities/permanent-structured-cooperation](http://www.eda.europa.eu/what-we-do/our-current-priorities/permanent-structured-cooperation).

<sup>6</sup> “Military Planning and Conduct Capability.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 22 Nov. 2018, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military\_Planning\_and\_Conduct\_Capability.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In the past, there have been many attempts to solve the issue of the European Defense Cooperation, starting from the end of the World War II. But it is a fact that we have achieved great progress within the last 25 years when it comes to this very important issue. The problems that lead the European Union to discuss a Defence Cooperation are mainly three: the migration crisis that is currently spreading in Southern Europe and mainly in Greece and Italy, the terrorist attacks that are threatening Europe and lastly, the permanent threat of possible conflicts that may arise across the Union.

#### **Migration Crisis**

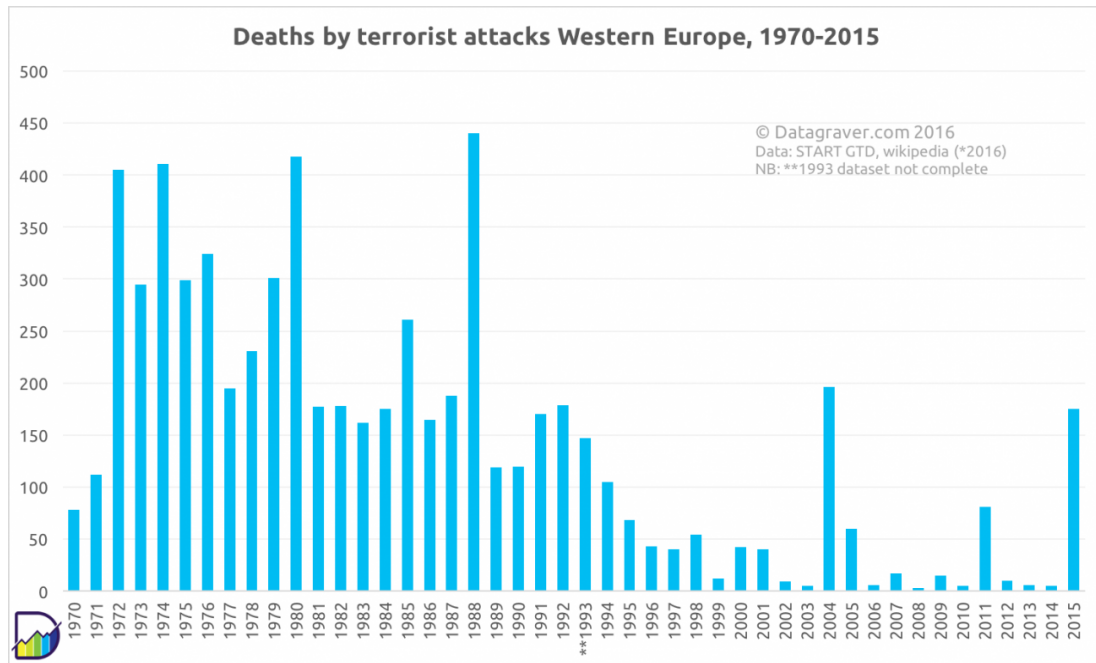
Political conflicts and the crisis in Syria have resulted in a huge number of refugees arriving in the European Union. For example, in 2015 more than 1 million migrants sought for asylum in Europe, an ever growing number. Europe is a place where people search for a better life not only as refugees, but as migrants from Less economically Developed Countries as well.

Countries like Greece and Italy became only transit countries, despite the fact that they both struggle economically. However, the rest of Europe is facing issues as well, since most of the refugees and migrants have the North-West European countries of Europe as their final destination.

#### **Terror Threat**

It is known that there is a risk, in which thousands of migrants enter the borders of the European Union, including members of terrorist organizations. An example of the terrorist threat is the Paris attack of two suicide bombers outside the Stade de France during a national football match, in November 13th 2015. Later, it was found out that the two suicide bombers entered along with the refugees coming from Greece.

The existence of new challenges, such as international terrorism, is a well-known fact. The fear of terrorist attacks is constantly growing globally and especially within the European borders. So, it is crucial that governments across the whole Union take proper measures, in order to keep the European Union safe.

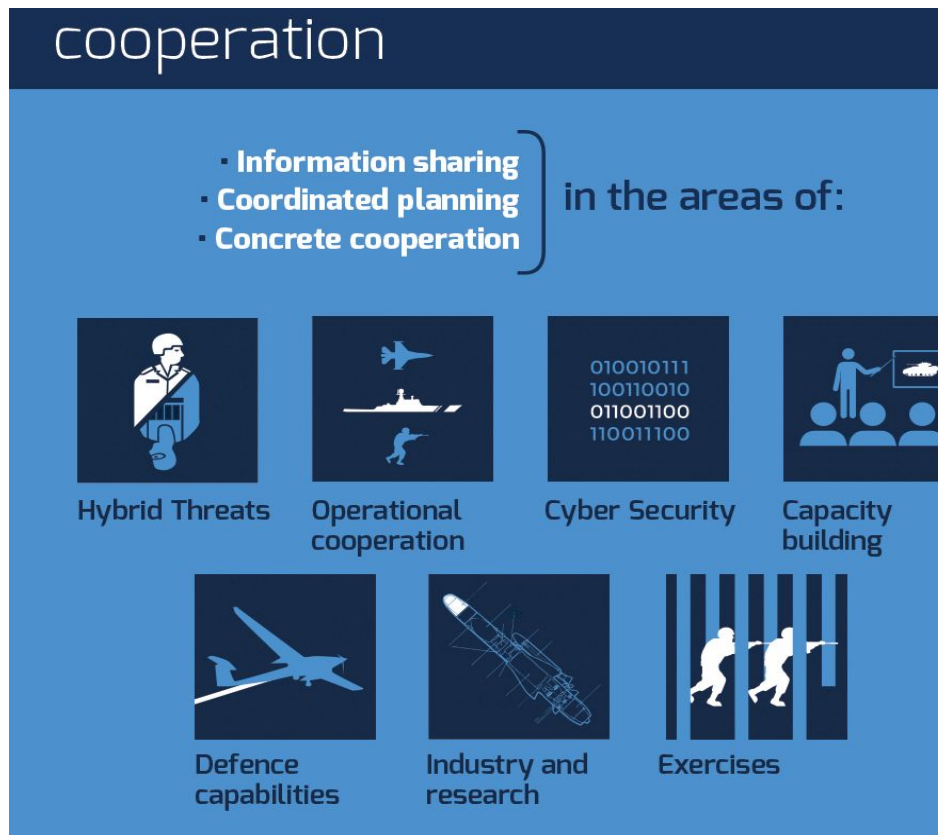


**Diagram of the dead and injured people in attacks in Western Europe**

**Possible feuds among European countries**

The past of European countries has shown that, if a feud among European countries arises, it will probably influence the whole world. A significant example that had an immense impact on the whole world with various and, yet, tremendous consequences is the World War II. The number of deaths and injuries, as well the devastation that World War II provoked to not only a huge number of people, but to governments and their constitution was inevitable. So, even if a minor problem between European countries arises, the European Union must be ready to solve it.

The end of World War II was the main cause of the foundation of the European Union. In order for us to ensure that no other problems will be as devastating as World War II, we can understand that a European Defence Cooperation is absolutely needed.



**The main areas of cooperation of the EU’s defense cooperation**

**MAJOR COUNTRIES INVOLVED**

**France**

France is one of the most powerful countries of Europe, covering a very large part. France has always been very active upon the topic of European Defense Cooperation and proposed many measures in order to strengthen Europe’s defense. A brief example of a measure proposed by France was a cooperation between European countries’ militaries, that will be ready to react to new military and humanitarian crises near Europe’s borders, the European Intervention Initiative. The Initiative has been signed by 10 EU countries, namely Portugal, Spain, Finland, Belgium, Britain, the Netherlands, Estonia, Denmark and Germany, which will be the center of the force.

**Germany**

Germany is the largest and richest country in Europe. In the past, due to Germany’s loss of World War II, Germany was forced to give up a big part of their

military forces, making them very vulnerable. Until now, Germany chooses to have only a few soldiers and too little equipment. Germany, similar to France, has been very active upon the topic of European Defense and many actions of Germany prove that. For example, the agreement between Germany and France not only to join the European Intervention Initiative, but also to be, alongside with France, the center of the force, can show how much Germany is involved with the European Defence.

### United Kingdom

It is known that Great Britain always cared about European Defense, something that can be easily identified by the 1998 St. Malo declaration, which was initially signed by Great Britain and France declaring that Great Britain will provide EU with military forces, if needed. But due to “Brexit”, the future of Great Britain inside the EU is very uncertain. Currently, with Great Britain in the EU, they contribute to EU defense financially 16% from the whole budget. Furthermore, they provide EU with personnel, expertise and equipment for various missions. The future relationship between the United Kingdom and the EU is basically based on a deal, known as the Chequers agreement. It is a UK government white paper concerning Brexit, in which they propose the continuance of the military collaboration between the two sides.

### Italy

Italy is also a major country when it comes to European Defense Cooperation. In recent years, Italy has increased spends in the European Defense industry, a fact that made the Italian government create a plan, in which Italy will decrease their expenditures within 2 years. This decrease of spends is a big risk of Italy's contribution to cooperative programs. An example of such a program created by Italy and the UK is the CAMM-ER Program, which aims to update Italy's air defense capabilities.

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS

9 <sup>th</sup> of December 1991	Creation of the CSDP by the European Council and agreement on a common defense policy.
1998	The St. Malo declaration is signed by France and the UK.
16 <sup>th</sup> of December 2002	The 'Berlin Plus' arrangement is signed
12 <sup>th</sup> July 2004	The European Defense Agency is

	established.
1 <sup>st</sup> of December 2009	The European Defense and Security Policy is renamed as the Common Security and Defense Policy.
8 <sup>th</sup> of July 2016	The President of the Council, the President of the Commission and the NATO Secretary General sign a joint declaration on EU-NATO cooperation.
8 <sup>th</sup> of June 2017	The Council establishes the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC).
11 <sup>th</sup> of December 2017	The Council establishes PESCO with 25 member states.
10 <sup>th</sup> of July 2018	The EU and NATO sign a new joint declaration ahead of the NATO summit on 11-12 July 2018.

### PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Since the end of the 1940s, there have been many short-lived attempts of the European Defense Cooperation.

#### First Attempts

The first attempt of the Defense Cooperation was in 1948, when the UK, France, and the Benelux signed the Treaty of Brussels. The treaty was an idea of a common defence policy, laying down the foundations for the creation of the Western European Union.

Later on, the Western Union proposed the creation of the European Defense Community (EDC), also known as the Treaty of Paris (1952), which was an alliance between Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxemburg, France, Italy and West Germany. Its aim was to create the EDC with a pan-European defense force. However, the Treaty was rejected by the French Parliament.

#### First Major Attempts of the Defense Cooperation

In 1991, the European Council in Maastricht lays the foundations for a political Union with the creation of a Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and

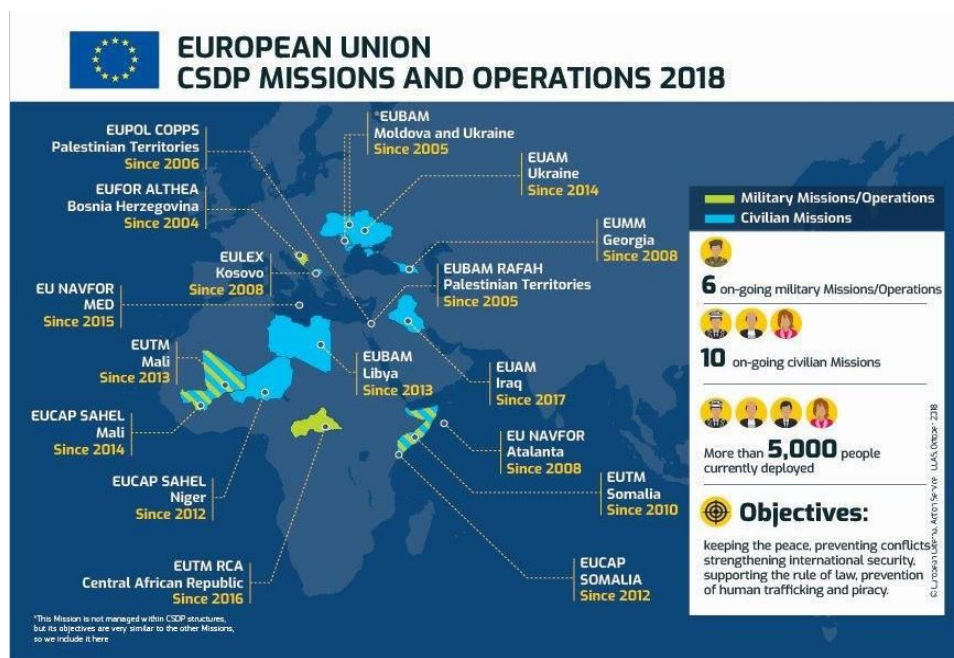


the beginnings of a common defense policy<sup>7</sup>, as the second pillar of the Treaty of Maastricht. This is the first official try of a common action for defense cooperation by the EU Member States after the Cold War. The text was signed in February 1992 and comes into force in November 1993<sup>8</sup>. In 1998, the St.Malo declaration, which was signed by the British former Prime Minister Tony Blair and former president Jacques Chirac, the United Kingdom and France promised to provide the EU with autonomous defense structures.

In 2002, the 'Berlin Plus' arrangement was signed, allowing the use of NATO structures, mechanisms and assets to carry out European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP) missions. That means that this arrangement is the first actual cooperation between NATO and the EU member states, which is crucial.

### First Mission of the Organs that pursue Defense Cooperation

In 2003, the EU deploys its first Common Security and Defense Policy (CDSP) missions, when the summit in Brussels adopts a European Security Strategy. The aim of this document is to achieve a secure Europe in a better world, to identify the threats facing the EU and to also define its strategic objectives. In 2004, the European Defense Agency was established to foster all EU Member States and to improve European defense capabilities in the field of crisis management.



EU's main csdp missions and operations in 2018

<sup>7</sup>[https://europa.eu/european-union/sites/europa.eu/files/docs/body/treaty\\_on\\_european\\_union\\_en.pdf](https://europa.eu/european-union/sites/europa.eu/files/docs/body/treaty_on_european_union_en.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> "Timeline: EU Cooperation on Security and Defence." *Consilium*, 23 Oct. 2017, [www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/defence-security/defence-security-timeline/](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/defence-security/defence-security-timeline/).

### NATO-EU joint declaration

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2016, at the NATO summit in Warsaw, the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission and NATO Secretary General signed a joint declaration on EU-NATO cooperation. The declaration aims to further strengthen EU-NATO cooperation, a wise action from all sides.

In 2017, the Council approves a concept note on the operational planning and conducts capabilities for CSDP missions and operations. One of the foreseen measures is the establishment of a Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) for the conduct and planning of non-executive military missions. In 2017, the Council establishes the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC), which will improve the crisis management structures of the EU and will assume command of EU non-executive military issues.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2018, the EU and NATO signed a new joint declaration ahead of the NATO summit on 11-12 July 2018. It sets out a shared vision of how the EU and NATO will act together against common security threats.

### The Establishment of PESCO

The Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) in the area of security and defence policy was established by a Council decision on December 2017<sup>9</sup>, with the 25 EU Member States participating (all EU countries except Malta, UK and Denmark). The participating member states agreed on an initial list of 17 projects to be undertaken by PESCO. The projects cover areas such as training, capability development and operational readiness in the field of defense.

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

When discussing your resolution, you could elaborate more on the following points:

The further use of the PESCO organization created in 2017. The key difference between PESCO and other forms of cooperation amongst Europe countries is the legally binding nature of the commitments undertaken by the participating member states. Particularly, the countries that have joined the PESCO organization, have signed a “list of ambitious and more binding common commitments“, which contains 20 individual commitments that the member states should fulfill. An important job for you is to pursue to elaborate on these commitments and on the various projects of PESCO.

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<sup>9</sup> “Lex Access to European Union Law.” *EUR*, eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32017D2315.

Also important is the question of the, so called, “European Army”. Some countries introduced the idea of the European Army with lots of arguments, however many countries rejected this idea considering the true beliefs of the European Union. You could elaborate more on the idea of the European Army, considering the country you represent.

You should also consider the discussion of strengthening the European Defense Cooperation not only through ESDP or PESCO, but also through NATO and the EU. It is known that NATO and the EU have signed a joint declaration and agreed to create a European Defense Fund (EDF). So, you can focus on such agreements and try to develop the idea of EDF.

Furthermore, the improvement of military capabilities (in the legal framework) is also an important factor that you could use. There is already the MPCC organization that concerns military capabilities or operation, therefore an interesting idea would be to expand the work of MPCC, in order to have a fully-fledged EU operation command in place.

Of course, you are also expected to come up with new solutions and propose them during committee work.

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