

SEDE Fact Sheet

Committee on *Security and Defence*

In recent years, the world has been going through a number of crises, related to peace and security: the war in Syria, and more recently Russia's unprovoked attacks in Ukraine, highlighted the need for domestic and world peace, as well as for a cohesive response to such actions, especially from the European Union.

The committee's responsibility is to devise ways and policies to make the EU a leading peacekeeping power. More specifically, the committee will have to focus on how the EU Member States can be brought together, enhance domestic and international infrastructure and cyber security, ensure peace in any region affected, and eventually make the EU acquire a dominant role in peacekeeping around the globe.

KEY TERMS

Peacekeeping: refers to the deployment of national or, more commonly, multinational forces for the purpose of helping to control and resolve an actual or potential armed conflict between or within states

Soft Power: refers to the ability to achieve goals by attraction through political, moral, or cultural influence; and, at times, by subtle economic means.

Hard Power: the use of military and economic means to influence the behavior or interests of other political bodies

Humanitarian Crisis: defined as a singular event or a series of events that are threatening in terms of health, safety, or well-being of a community or large group of people. It may be an internal or external conflict and usually occurs throughout a large land area.

European Foreign and Security Policy: The EU's joint Foreign and Security Policy, designed to resolve conflicts and foster international understanding, is based on diplomacy and respect for international rules. Trade, humanitarian aid, and development cooperation also play an important role in the EU's international role. EU foreign and security policy seeks to: preserve peace, strengthen international security, promote international cooperation, develop and consolidate democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights & fundamental freedoms.

Common Security and Defence Policy: The Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) enables the Union to take a leading role in peace-keeping operations, conflict prevention, and in the strengthening of international security. It is an integral part of the EU's comprehensive approach towards crisis management, drawing on civilian and military assets.

War crimes: Violations of international humanitarian law (treaty or customary law) that incur individual criminal responsibility under international law. As a result, and in contrast to the crimes of genocide and crimes against humanity, war crimes must always take place in the context of an armed conflict, either international or non-international.

MAIN STAKEHOLDERS

The European Union: Under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), the EU takes a leading role in peacekeeping operations, conflict prevention and the strengthening of international security. It is an integral part of the EU's comprehensive approach towards crisis management, drawing on civilian and military assets.

Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO): PESCO is a Treaty-based framework and process to deepen defence cooperation amongst EU Member States who are capable and willing to do so. The aim is to jointly develop defence capabilities and make them available for EU military operations. This will enhance the EU's capacity as an international security actor, contribute to the protection of EU citizens and maximise the effectiveness of defence spending.

European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations: Whenever there is a disaster or humanitarian emergency, the EU provides assistance for the affected countries and populations. In line with the four principles grounded in International Humanitarian Law, EU humanitarian aid: addresses human suffering, with particular attention to the most vulnerable groups of people, while respecting the dignity of all victims (humanity); does not favour any side in a conflict (neutrality); is provided solely on the basis of needs, without any kind of discrimination (impartiality); is independent of any agenda, be it political, economic, military or else (independence).

United Nations (UN): The United Nations was created in 1945, following the devastation of the Second World War, with one central mission: the maintenance of international peace and security. The UN accomplishes this by working to prevent conflict, helping parties in conflict make peace, deploying peacekeepers, and creating the conditions to allow peace to hold and flourish. These activities often overlap and should reinforce one another, to be effective. The UN Security Council has the primary responsibility for international peace and security. The General Assembly and the Secretary-General play major, important, and complementary roles, along with other UN offices and bodies.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO): NATO is an active and leading contributor to peace and security on the international stage. Through its crisis management operations, the Alliance demonstrates both its willingness to act as a positive force for change and its capacity to meet the security challenges of the 21st century.

EU Sanctions against Russia

The EU has imposed unprecedented sanctions against Russia in response to the unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 and the illegal annexation of Ukraine's Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson regions.

- They add to existing measures imposed on Russia since 2014 following the annexation of Crimea and the non-implementation of the Minsk agreements.
- Sanctions include targeted restrictive measures (individual sanctions), economic sanctions, and visa measures
- The aim of the economic sanctions is to impose severe consequences on Russia for its actions and to thwart Russian abilities to continue the aggression effectively.
- The individual sanctions target people responsible for supporting, financing, or implementing actions that undermine Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty, and independence or who benefit from these actions.

Support by the EU:

Ukraine

The EU has always been keen to forge closer links with Ukraine, boost its economy and support values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in the country. The EU and its citizens stand in full solidarity with Ukraine and its people. The EU supports Ukraine (and its neighbouring countries that are providing protection for people fleeing the war) with:

- humanitarian, political, financial and military support. (measures include:
- humanitarian aid for Ukraine and Moldova, civil protection support, macro-financial assistance to foster stability, support the Ukrainian armed forces, support in the investigation and prosecution of war crimes)
- solidarity and support to the refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine and the countries hosting them. It is also coordinating with partners and allies, within the UN, OSCE, NATO and the G7 (measures include: reception of refugees through the temporary protection mechanism etc.)
- initiatives to support Ukraine's economy, aid its green transition & help the country to reform f.e. loans to support reforms in Ukraine, Ukraine students participating in the EU's Erasmus+ programme, investment in Ukraine SME's funds to modernise public IT infrastructure & providing much-needed medical equipment and healthcare.

Ways in which Europe promotes peace:

Global peace requires a strong focus on preventive action. Once violent conflict erupts, there are often few viable options to end it peacefully. Assessing the underlying structural factors and deep-seated dynamics that lead to violence helps avert the worst.

As a force for peace and reconciliation for over 70 years, the EU has developed a vast conflict prevention and peacebuilding toolbox ranging from early warning to peace mediation. The EU continues to engage in crisis response, deploying military and civilian crisis management missions and operations to fragile environments. The EU has instruments for stabilisation and peacebuilding to help ensure sustainable peace.

The EU invests heavily in peace. NDICI-Global Europe, the EU's main tool to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development, is a peace instrument at its core. It channels EUR 79.5 billion into development cooperation between 2020 and 2027.

As a lead proponent and defender of a rules based international order, the EU believes that overcoming the global challenges to peace requires a strong, UN-centred multilateral system that is fit for the world of tomorrow. Promoting effective global governance and upholding the UN Charter is at the heart of the EU's priorities for the 77th session of the ongoing UN General Assembly.

The EU is committed to supporting the resolution of violent conflict through peaceful means. Preventing conflict, building peace and strengthening international security will at times require coercive measures as well. In an era of strategic competition and complex security



CYBERSECURITY: EU EXTERNAL ACTION

The Strategic Compass provides further guidance on strengthening the EU's ability to prevent, deter and respond to cyberattacks. The EU is determined to promote and protect a global, open, stable and secure cyberspace for everyone to have a safe digital life. Increased cybersecurity is essential for the EU to become a resilient, green and digital Union.

Cyber threats are evolving very fast, with technologies being increasingly misused for:



Interference in democratic processes and elections



Attacks against critical infrastructure



Cyber espionage & intellectual property theft



Spreading online disinformation



Censoring, observing and repressing citizens

The EU stands for a global, open, stable and secure cyberspace based on:



GLOBAL CYBER RESILIENCE



CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RULES BASED ORDER



PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS



COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

EU CYBERSECURITY STRATEGY

The EU Cybersecurity Strategy will increase resilience, technological sovereignty and EU leadership; build operational capacity to counter malicious cyber activities; and promote cooperation for a global and open cyberspace.

The EU Cybersecurity Strategy covers 5 external policy areas:



LEADERSHIP ON INTERNATIONAL NORMS AND STANDARDS

- Diplomatic outreach & multilateral cooperation (e.g. United Nations)
- Confidence-building measures (e.g. OSCE, ASEAN Regional Forum)



PARTNERSHIPS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- Dialogues with third countries & international organisations
- Exchanges with civil society, academics, private sector



EXTERNAL CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING

- Increase cyber resilience & capacities of partners to investigate and prosecute cybercrimes
- Around 20 projects in cybercrime & cybersecurity in the Western Balkans and in the Eastern and Southern neighbourhood



EU CYBER DEFENCE COOPERATION & CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

- Developing an EU Cyber Defence Policy to be better prepared for and respond to cyberattacks
- Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) projects (e.g. Cyber Rapid Response Teams will allow deployable teams to respond to cyber-attacks)



PREVENTING, DETERRING AND RESPONDING TO CYBER THREATS AND ATTACKS

- Use of the cyber diplomacy toolbox: political declarations, demarches, dialogues, sanctions
- In February 2022, following the Russian invasion of Ukraine with substantial cyberattacks, the EU has offered support to increase Ukraine's cyber resilience and defence, the PESCO Rapid Response Team has been activated to help Ukraine defend against cyberattacks