Today, guaranteeing security means dealing with threats that transcend borders. No single country can address them alone. Europe’s citizens are looking to the European Union for protection, with 3 out of 4 in favour of a Common Security and Defence Policy among EU Member States (Eurobarometer, April 2017). More has been achieved in European defence policy in the past 3 years than in decades before.

“...In defence matters, it is not about establishing the European Union as an alternative model to NATO. Both have to work together and cooperate. In the defence sector we must have enhanced cooperation which the Lisbon Treaty also provides for. On procurement, in particular, we need to work together more rather than against each other, to obtain what we both need.”

Jean-Claude Juncker, Candidate for President of the European Commission, 15 July 2014

Following proposals from the European Commission, EU Leaders agreed in December 2016 on a plan to deepen EU security and defence cooperation, with three priorities:

- protecting the EU and our citizens
- responding to external conflicts and crises
- strengthening the capacities of our partners

The EU launched a common European Defence Fund to finance joint research and development.

Permanent Structured Cooperation has been launched for Member States to pursue greater cooperation in defence and security.

The EU has stepped up cooperation with NATO to an unprecedented level.
### Increased Autonomy and Output

- The European Defence Fund announced by President Juncker and launched in June 2017 promotes cooperation among Member States and cost savings for joint research, development and acquisition of state-of-the-art defence technology and equipment.

- Since 2017, the EU for the first time offers grants for collaborative research projects in the areas of drones, strategic technology foresight and soldier protection and equipment. €90 million will be allocated to defence research grants for 2017-2019, directly funded from the EU budget.

- With this programme, the EU will create incentives for Member States to cooperate on joint development of defence equipment and technology through co-financing from the EU budget (€500 million for 2019 and 2020).

- Permanent Structured Cooperation projects may be eligible for a higher rate of EU co-financing (30% instead of 20%).

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### 25 Member States have agreed to collaborate on defence capabilities

- The Permanent Structured Cooperation will help Member States to jointly develop defence capabilities and make them available for EU military operations, enhancing the EU's capacity as an international security partner and maximising the effectiveness of defence spending.

- 17 collaborative projects has been agreed in areas like EU medical command, military mobility, maritime surveillance, cyber security.
EU – NATO cooperation

On 8 July 2016, Presidents Juncker and Tusk and NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg signed a Joint Declaration to give new impetus and substance to the EU – NATO strategic partnership, outlining seven concrete areas to enhance cooperation. Cooperation has become the established norm as a direct follow-up to the new level of ambition outlined in the Joint Declaration.

MORE EFFICIENT SPENDING

Lack of cooperation between Member States in the field of defence and security is estimated to cost between €25 billion and €100 billion every year\(^1\). The European Defence Fund will help Member States to spend taxpayers money more efficiently and get better value for their investment. It will offer EU co-funding and help Member States to find the most suitable financial arrangements for joint acquisitions. For 2017, €25 million have been committed already.

Enhanced cooperation through the Permanent Structured Cooperation will strengthen operational cooperation among Member States. Currently, around 80% of defence procurement is run on a purely national basis, leading to a costly duplication of military capabilities\(^2\).

Since 2010, less than €200 million has been spent each year on collaborative European research & technology in the field of defence. The European Defence Fund will more than triple this figure from 2020 onwards, to over €500 million yearly.

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\(^1\) EPRS, European Parliament, 2013

\(^2\) Munich Security Report, 2017
RESEARCH PROJECTS ALREADY UNDERWAY

**PYTHIA**
A project aiming to identify key trends in the fast evolving world of innovative defence technologies, which will be run by a consortium, run by Ingegneria Informatica S.p.A.

**Participating Member States:**
Bulgaria, France, Italy, Poland, Romania and the United Kingdom.

**Industry and research partners:**

**Ocean 2020**
A project to enhance situational awareness in a maritime environment by using manned and unmanned systems, which will be run by a consortium led by Leonardo S.p.A.

**Participating Member States:**
Estonia, France, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

**Industry and research partners:**
Indra, Safran, Saab, MBDA, PGZ/CTM Hensoldt, Intracom-IDE, Fincantieri and Qinetiq, Fraunhofer, the Nederlandse Organisatie voor Toegepast Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek (TNO), the Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation (CMRE NATO) and the Italian Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI).

**GOSSRA**
A project focused on ensuring that complex system elements worn by soldiers (e.g. sensors or digital goggles) can work together, specifying how components connect and making it easier to develop new devices that can work with existing equipment.

**Participating Member States:**
Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

**Industry and research partners:**
Rheinmetall, Indra, GMV aerospace and defence, Leonardo, Larimart and Saab; SMEs Tekever and iTTi, Nederlandse Organisatie voor Toegepast Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek (TNO).

**ACAMSII**
A project to develop adaptive camouflage for soldiers that will protect them against sensors operating in several wavelength ranges.

**Participating Member States:**
France, Germany, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Portugal and Sweden.

**Industry and research partners:**
CITEVE, Damel and Safran, Totalförsvarets Forskningsinstitut (FOI), Fraunhofer, and the Nederlandse Organisatie voor Toegepast Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek (TNO).

**Vestlife**
A project to create protective clothing for soldiers. It will work on developing clothes that are effective for defence purposes, but lighter, more flexible and comfortable at the same time.

**Participating Member States:**
Finland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.

**Industry and research partners:**
CITEVE, FY-composites, AITEX and TECNALIA.