

### Basic information

2024/2082(INI)

INI - Own-initiative procedure

Implementation of the common security and defence policy – annual report 2024

#### Subject



6.10.02 Common security and defence policy (CSDP); WEU, NATO

Procedure completed

### Key players

European Parliament	<b>Committee responsible</b>	<b>Rapporteur</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
	<span style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">AFET</span> Foreign Affairs	PASCUAL DE LA PARTE Nicolás (EPP)	12/09/2024
		<b>Shadow rapporteur</b> CREMER Tobias (S&D) THONNET Pierre-Romain (PFE) POZŃAKS Reinis (ECR) GROOTHUIS Bart (Renew) STAŃIS Mārtiņš (Greens /EFA) DEMIREL Özlem (The Left) NEUHOFF Hans (ESN)	

### Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
28/11/2024	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
30/01/2025	Vote in committee		
10/02/2025	Committee report tabled for plenary	A10-0011/2025	<a href="#">Summary</a>
01/04/2025	Debate in Parliament		
02/04/2025	Decision by Parliament	T10-0058/2025	<a href="#">Summary</a>
02/04/2025	Results of vote in Parliament		

### Technical information

Procedure reference	2024/2082(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Annual report
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 55
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/10/01145

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		<a href="#">PE765.100</a>	11/10/2024	
Amendments tabled in committee		<a href="#">PE765.304</a>	08/11/2024	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		<a href="#">A10-0011/2025</a>	10/02/2025	<a href="#">Summary</a>
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		<a href="#">T10-0058/2025</a>	02/04/2025	<a href="#">Summary</a>

## Implementation of the common security and defence policy – annual report 2024

2024/2082(INI) - 10/02/2025 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted the report by Nicolás PASCUAL DE LA PARTE (EPP, ES) on the implementation of the common security and defence policy (CSDP) – annual report 2024.

### *Challenges to EU Security*

In recent years, particularly since Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the Hamas terrorist attacks on Israel in October 2023, the EU has faced unprecedented threats and crises in its immediate neighbourhood, necessitating a stronger focus on security and defence. The EU has responded by deepening its involvement in European security and defence, exploring new directions, and launching initiatives to strengthen collective and cooperative defence capabilities.

This first annual report on CSDP implementation under the tenth parliamentary term assesses progress in the current geopolitical and security context.

The report highlighted several areas for enhancing CSDP, including institutional decision-making processes, the joint development of military and armament capabilities, and the financing mechanisms to support these efforts. It also stressed the EU's commitment to addressing evolving security challenges through collective action and offers a roadmap for advancing the CSDP to ensure a more secure and resilient Europe.

### *The Consequences of a Changing Geopolitical Paradigm for European Security*

The report stressed that the security threats facing Europe have reached levels not seen since the Second World War. These include geopolitical fractures, imperialist ambitions of authoritarian powers, systemic rivalry among great powers, nationalist unilateralism, terrorism (including jihadist terrorism), and the increasing use of force and violence by malicious actors to advance political and economic goals.

Members also highlighted the interconnected nature of geopolitical crises in Ukraine, the Middle East, the South China Sea, and the Indo-Pacific. It noted the deepening ties between **Russia and China**, which pose significant challenges to global peace, the rules-based international order, and democratic values. **Hybrid threats**, such as attacks on elections and efforts to undermine European cohesion and adherence to the rule of law, are also emphasised. This represents a paradigm shift away from international law, multilateralism, and a rules-based order.

The EU's **Global Gateway initiative** and other development programmes should align with security objectives, promoting inclusive growth, good governance, and human rights to build resilient societies.

The report called for a comprehensive and multifaceted approach to address the changing geopolitical paradigm, combining diplomatic, developmental, and security measures to ensure long-term peace and stability in Europe and beyond.

### *The EU's Response: a new era of European security and defence*

While achieving greater **strategic autonomy and defence readiness**, as outlined in the Strategic Compass, is crucial, the report stressed that the EU must respect the **military neutrality** of some Member States while emphasising the need for collective security alignment.

The report highlighted that the appointment of the first **Commissioner for Defence and Space** and the development of a white paper on European defence mark steps toward a European Defence Union. Priority measures are needed to address threats, bolster deterrence, and enhance operational capabilities, including dual-use approaches.

The European Defence Union should **complement deeper EU-NATO cooperation**. Joint development of strategic enablers (e.g., air defence, hypersonic weapons) and regular EU-NATO conferences are essential to avoid duplication and enhance interoperability. In addition, close EU-NATO coordination on deterrence, capability development, and industrial production is critical.

The report stressed the need for the EU to adopt a **unified, strategic approach to defence**, combining enhanced autonomy, solidarity, and cooperation with NATO to address current and future security challenges effectively.

### ***Global cooperation***

Deeply concerned about **China's** increasing investments in military capabilities, Members called on the Commission and the Member States to seriously implement a policy of 'derisking' with the aim of managing the risks coming from economic and technological engagement with China. They called, in this regard, for the risks posed by Chinese suppliers in EU critical infrastructure to be addressed, and for no EU funds or subsidies to be directed to advancing the position of these suppliers in Europe.

While condemning the **Iranian Government** for aiding and abetting internationally recognised terrorist organisations and networks that have perpetrated or attempted attacks within the EU, the EU and the Member States are urged to enhance intelligence-sharing and counter-terrorism measures to prevent any future attacks. They reiterated their longstanding call to add the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps to the EU list of terrorist organisations.

Members reiterated their condemnation of the terrorist attacks carried out by the terrorist organization **Hamas** against Israel on 7 October 2023, which contributed to further destabilisation in the Middle East, intensified by aggression against Israel by Iranian proxies and the Iranian regime itself. They also reaffirmed Israel's right to self-defence as enshrined and limited by international law and called for the **immediate and unconditional release of all remaining hostages** held by Hamas, an **immediate end to all hostilities** and respect for international law, including humanitarian law.

The report also urged the Council and the Member States to designate **Hezbollah**, in its entirety, as a terrorist organisation and to push for its full disarmament.

Moreover, it is noted that the **Jordan-Syria border** is being used as a crossing point for arms and drug trafficking. Therefore, Members emphasised the need for the EU to further support Jordan, which has been weakened by the current crisis in the Middle East.

### ***Increased resources***

Members welcomed the increased budgets and investment in defence by Member States and the increase, albeit modest, in the EU budget for the CSDP in 2024. They strongly believe that, in the light of unprecedented security threats, all EU Member States should urgently reach a level of defence spending, as a proportion of their GDP, that is significantly higher than NATO's current target of 2 %. They also called for the next MFF to genuinely provide the means for a defence union.

### ***Greater involvement of European Parliament in the CSDP***

Members stressed the need for **full parliamentary scrutiny and accountability** in light of the increased political priority of the CSDP and **higher defence spending** at both EU and Member State levels during the tenth legislative term. In addition, Members called for a stronger role in scrutinising, legislating, and overseeing the growing range of EU defence initiatives, particularly under the CSDP.

Members highlighted the need to enhance scrutiny of defence industrial regulations by introducing a procedure for delegated acts.

Lastly, the report stressed the importance of strengthening the European Parliament's oversight and involvement in EU defence policies to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective implementation of CSDP initiatives.

## **Implementation of the common security and defence policy – annual report 2024**

2024/2082(INI) - 02/04/2025 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 399 votes to 198, with 71 abstentions, the report on the implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy - Annual Report 2024.

### ***Geopolitical paradigm shift for European security***

Parliament highlighted that threats to European security have reached levels not seen since the Second World War. These include geopolitical fractures, the imperialist ambitions of authoritarian powers, systemic great-power rivalry, nationalist unilateralism, terrorism (including jihadist terrorism), and the increasing use of force and violence by malign actors to achieve political and economic objectives.

In this context, Members expressed their deep concern at the apparent change of position on the Russian war of aggression by the United States, which has accused Ukraine of continuing the war, suspended American military aid and attempted to force Ukraine to renounce its legitimate right to self-defence. They deplored any attempt at **blackmail** targeting the Ukrainian leadership to force them to surrender to the Russian aggressor for the sole purpose of announcing a 'peace agreement'.

Parliament also believes that the US administration's current attempt to negotiate a ceasefire and peace agreement **without involving the European Union** is counterproductive because it gives the warring party an advantage. While moderately optimistic about the proposed 30-day ceasefire agreement, Members expect Russia to accept and respect it by ceasing all attacks against Ukraine.

### ***Support Ukraine***

Parliament stressed that a comprehensive peace agreement, which respects Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, must be accompanied by **robust and credible security guarantees** for Ukraine, in order to deter Russia from future aggression. Parliament welcomed the efforts undertaken in this regard with NATO and like-minded partners. It welcomed the European Council conclusions of 20 March 2025, which underline the readiness of the EU and its Member States to contribute to security guarantees, including by supporting Ukraine's ability to defend itself effectively.

Without resolute military support from the EU, Ukraine will not be able to defeat Russia. Members once again urged EU Member States to respect their commitments and deliver weapons, combat aircraft, drones, air defence systems, weapons systems and munitions to Ukraine, including air-launched cruise missiles and surface-to-surface systems, and to significantly increase the corresponding quantities.

The European Union and its Member States are called upon to help Ukraine expand the international coalition supporting the **Victory Plan** and the peace formula presented by Volodymyr Zelensky. The HR/VP is called upon to mobilise more diplomatic support for Ukraine and the sanctions imposed on Russia.

### ***Union's response: a new era for European security and defence***

Stressing that diplomacy must remain a cornerstone of the Union's foreign policy, Members recalled that the European Union must achieve **greater strategic autonomy** and improved defence preparedness, as set out in the Strategic Compass.

The resolution underlined that NATO and the transatlantic partnership with the United States remain the cornerstones of European collective defence. It endorsed the ambition to **strengthen the European pillar** within NATO and insisted that the establishment of a European Defence Union must go hand in hand with the deepening of EU-NATO cooperation. Members stressed the need to ensure **close coordination** between the European Union and NATO on deterrence and in-depth collaboration to build coherent, complementary and interoperable defence capabilities and to strengthen industrial production capacities.

Parliament stressed the need for EU Member States and the EU as a whole to step up their efforts through increased and targeted **joint investment**, joint procurement of defence products that are, for the most part, designed and manufactured in the EU, and the development of more common capabilities, including through pooling and sharing, thereby strengthening their armed forces for operational purposes, at national, NATO and EU level.

### ***Joining forces to increase defence capabilities***

Parliament welcomed the ambition to enable the Union and its Member States to achieve an effective state of defence preparedness and to **strengthen the EDTIB**. It also highlighted the usefulness of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) in improving and harmonising the Union's defence capabilities. It called on Member States to undertake joint procurement with a view to establishing pan-European value chains by distributing production across the Union in order to increase the economic attractiveness of joint procurement.

Members stressed the need to further support the **transition from development projects to marketable solutions** and the need to ensure coherence of outputs between the respective capability development planning processes of the European Union and NATO. They welcomed the **proposal for European defence projects of common interest** to develop common capabilities that go beyond the financial means of a single Member State. The resolution highlighted the need to address the fragmentation of the EU's defence industrial landscape and to complete the full implementation of the **internal market for defence products** in the Union. A significant increase in investment in defence R&D is also desirable.

### ***Increase resources***

Parliament stressed that urgent needs cannot wait for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and highlighted the need to explore innovative solutions for **additional funding** without delay. While welcoming the increase in Member States' defence budgets and investments and the increase in the EU budget allocated to the CSDP in 2024, Members are convinced that, in view of the unprecedented security threats, all EU Member States should urgently achieve a level of defence spending, as a proportion of their GDP, **significantly higher than the current NATO target of 2%**.

Parliament urged Member States to support the establishment of a Defence, Security and Resilience Bank, which would serve as a multilateral lending institution designed to provide low-interest, long-term loans that could support key national security priorities.

Furthermore, the Commission is invited to raise **common debt** to provide the Union with the fiscal capacity to borrow in exceptional and crisis situations, present and future, taking into account the experience and lessons learned from NextGenerationEU,

Lastly, Members called for **greater involvement of the European Parliament** in the CSDP in view of the increased political priority of the CSDP and the increase in defence spending, both at EU and Member State level, during the tenth legislature.