

Information Guide



Security and Defence

A guide to Security and Defence within the European Union and in the wider Europe, with hyperlinks to sources of information within European Sources Online and on external websites

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Introduction

[The] EU's six military operations to date can be considered a quiet success. They have contributed to the stabilisation of war-torn countries in the Balkans, stopped the escalation of conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, shielded vulnerable refugees in Chad, and helped stem piracy off the coast of Somalia.

The operations have frequently taken the form of a coalition between one of the EU's 'big three' (most often involving France) and groups of small and medium-sized countries that have found the EU to be a convenient framework for modernising their forces and achieving synergies and savings. In the process, EU member states have built up a common operational culture that will facilitate future endeavours.

The European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) – later Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) – has provided a structure for European countries to face common security challenges, retain a position in the global system, promote 'democratic peace', defend certain political interests, provide global public crisis management goods, pool dwindling resources, and reduce the cost of externalities.

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Post-war security

NATO, the failure of the EDC and the creation of the WEU

Having suffered the experience of two destructive continental wars collective defence was a major issue for Europe in the years after 1945. In 1948 Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom signed the [Brussels Treaty](#) which included a commitment to collective self-defence. In 1949, the [Washington Treaty](#) (North Atlantic Treaty) created the [North Atlantic Treaty Organisation](#) (NATO) with 12 members - Belgium, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and the United Kingdom (UK), plus Canada and the United States.

The idea of ensuring lasting peace through the creation of common structures between European countries also stood at the beginning of the European integration project. As stipulated in the Schuman Declaration of 9 May 1950, the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) should guarantee 'that any war between France and Germany becomes not merely unthinkable, but materially impossible'.

Even before the ECSC entered into force in July 1952 the French Prime Minister René Pleven had proposed establishing a European Defence Community (EDC) amongst the same six countries: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. The 'Pleven Plan' was linked to the wider project of creating a European Political Community (EPC) and although the EDC Treaty was signed in 1952 it foundered when the French National Assembly rejected it in 1954. Nevertheless, the impetus to co-operate on defence and other issues resulted in the creation, in 1955, of the Western European Union (WEU), based on a revised Brussels Treaty, to which Germany and Italy were also signatories.

In the early 1960s it became once again clear that Member States were not prepared for a common security policy or even common defence structures. The Fouchet Plan, which aimed at a major Treaty review and the possibility of establishing a Political Community, included a European Defence System, independent of the transatlantic alliance, and it was rejected amongst other things for these suggestions. The strategy followed since

then - and especially since 1970 - was therefore one of incremental steps rather than radical changes to the Treaty.

Since its creation in 1955 the Western European Union always operated in the shadow of NATO, although it was the only exclusively European organisation to have an automatic collective defence obligation. The reality, however, has been that NATO - and particularly the United States - has dominated the defence and security of Western Europe and guaranteed a functioning collective defence system.

Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE)

Most countries of Central and Eastern Europe, which had come under Soviet domination after the Second World War, were part of NATO's mirror organisation, the Warsaw Pact which was founded in 1955. The opposition of NATO and the Warsaw Pact determined the security scenario in Europe throughout the phase known as the Cold War.

A rapprochement between the two blocs was seen in the early 1970s. The Soviet Union had long asked for a pan-European security conference. However, it was only when several conditions on mutual recognition were met and it was agreed to include talks on disarmament and human rights issues that both parties were prepared to launch such an undertaking. When Finland hosted the first stage of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) in July 1973 the 'Helsinki Process' was started. The second stage, including the substantial negotiations, took place in Geneva and was concluded in 1975. In the third stage the CSCE Final Act ([Helsinki Final Act](#)) was signed by 35 states (all European states except Albania plus Canada and the United States) on 1 August 1975.

The Helsinki Final Act was the result of the negotiations on three topical issues:

- Politico-military aspects of security
- Co-operation on economics, science and technology and the environment
- Human rights issues.

In times of deep ideological divisions in Europe the CSCE managed to bring the two sides together to discuss a wide range of security-related topics. Although it is contested whether it was legally binding the Helsinki Final Act proved to be a powerful tool in political terms. It lent support to human rights activities in Central and Eastern Europe and built up a certain level of confidence between the opponent blocs. Regular follow-up conferences would ensure that this dialogue did not lose momentum.

Post-Cold War security

Since the breakdown of Communism in Central and Eastern Europe in the wake of the events in the late 1980s the security scenario in Europe has completely changed. The Cold War opposition of two well-defined blocs and the threat of territorial war have made way for a more diffuse picture of external and internal threats.

The geographical scope of security is no longer bound to states and alliances only. On the one hand it has become clear that a wider concept of security is urgently needed to encompass all the risks emerging in the wake of economic and political globalisation. Boundaries may be irrelevant for threats like environmental disasters, cybercrime, epidemics or international terrorism. On the other hand local or regional conflicts may have an impact far beyond their geographical origin.

Even after the end of the Cold War, NATO continues to be the most important security and defence organisation in Europe. WEU has transferred most of its responsibilities to the EU which is gradually developing its own policies and structures in the field of

security and defence. Besides NATO and the EU, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the United Nations and the Council of Europe all play roles in European security.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

Amongst the 28 members of the [North Atlantic Treaty Organisation](#) are 21 EU Member States: Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and UK.

The other NATO members are Albania, Canada, Croatia, Iceland, Norway, Turkey and the USA.

At the November 2002 [Prague Summit](#), NATO agreed to enlarge and strengthen the Alliance 'to meet the grave new threats and profound security challenges of the 21st century.' Leaders committed themselves 'to transforming NATO with new members, new capabilities and new relationships with [its] partners.'

At the meeting, seven prospective new members were invited to begin accession talks to join NATO (Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia). It was also made clear that 'NATO's door will remain open to European democracies willing and able to assume the responsibilities and obligations of membership'. Future NATO members are likely to include Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, Ukraine and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia - all of which are countries that the EU already has relations with.

The Prague Summit also introduced a series of measures relating to NATO's structure and role, including:

- The creation of a rapid response force (NATO Response Force - NRF)
- A streamlined strategic command structure with the operational command in Europe and the functional (related to NATO's transformation) in the United States
- Prague Capabilities Commitment (by Member States)
- Concepts for defence against new threats.

The [Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council](#) (EAPC) is a consultative body which brings together 50 NATO and partner countries on a regular basis to discuss political and security related issues.

The [Partnership for Peace](#) (PfP) allows Partner countries to build up an individual relationship with NATO, choosing their own priorities for cooperation.

NATO has developed special relations with both Ukraine and Russia. [NATO-Ukraine relations](#) were defined as a 'Distinctive Partnership' in 1997 and a [NATO-Ukraine Commission](#) (NUC) was established as a common decision-making body. [NATO-Russia relations](#) are based on the [NATO-Russia Council](#) (NRC), created in 2002.

Current NATO operations include missions in Afghanistan, Kosovo, Iraq and the Mediterranean Sea (for more details see [NATO operations and missions](#); see also [Summaries of EU legislation](#)).

Western European Union (WEU)

The [Western European Union](#) (WEU) was created by the 1948 'Brussels Treaty' (Treaty on Economic, Social and Cultural Collaboration and Collective Self-Defence), signed by Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the UK.

The development of the European Union's security and defence policy in recent years saw the role of the WEU diminish, with most of its responsibilities transferred to the EU. Consequently, the WEU ceased to exist as a Treaty-based international organisation on 30 June 2011. Under [Council Decision 2011/297/CFSP](#) of 23 May 2011, 'necessary administrative tasks' have been taken on by the [European Union Satellite Centre](#).

The [WEU](#) had 10 full members: Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and UK. There were also six Associate Members, five Observers and seven Associate Partners (for a full list see the WEU [Delegations](#) page). In December 1991, following the Treaty on European Union (see section below on ESDP), WEU Ministers approved a [Declaration](#) on 'The role of the Western European Union and its relations with the European Union and the Atlantic Alliance'. The Declaration stated that the WEU would:

be developed as the defence component of the European Union and as the means to strengthen the European pillar of the Atlantic Alliance. To this end, it will formulate common European defence policy and carry forward its concrete implementation through the further development of its own operational role.

The Declaration proposed ways of strengthening WEU's relations with the European Union and NATO, as well as measures to develop WEU's operational role. A number of practical decisions were taken, including the transfer of the seat of the WEU Council and Secretariat-General from London to Brussels.

Meeting at Petersberg near Bonn in June 1992 to consider the implementation of the Maastricht Declarations, WEU Foreign and Defence Ministers took a major step forward in defining the WEU's operational role, stating in the [Petersberg Declaration](#):

WEU member States declare that they are prepared to make available military units from the whole spectrum of their conventional armed forces for military tasks conducted under the authority of WEU.

As the WEU had neither its own forces nor its own permanent command structures, military units ('Forces answerable to WEU' - FAWEU) and headquarters were made available to WEU on a case-by-case basis for specific operations. In addition to national units, a number of multinational formations were designated as FAWEU:

- EUROCORPS (European Corps) - Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and Spain
- Multinational Division (Central) - Belgium, Germany, Netherlands and the UK
- UK/Netherlands Amphibious Force
- EUROFOR (Rapid Deployment Force) - France, Italy, Portugal and Spain
- EUROMARFOR (European Maritime Force) - France, Italy, Portugal and Spain
- Headquarters of the First German-Netherlands Corps
- Spanish-Italian Amphibious Force
- European Air Group (EAG) - Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Spain and the UK.

In addition to contributing to the common defence (under Article 5 of the Washington Treaty and Article V of the modified Brussels Treaty), military units of WEU Member States, acting under the authority of WEU, could be employed for a number of 'Petersberg tasks': 'humanitarian and rescue tasks; peacekeeping tasks; tasks of combat forces in crisis management, including peacemaking'. The Petersberg tasks were later incorporated into the EU's security and defence policy (see ESDP section below).

Although the development of the European Union's security and defence policy in recent years has seen the role of the WEU diminish, with most of its responsibilities transferred to the EU, the collective self-defence clause in the [modified Brussels Treaty](#) (Art. V) is still in place.

With the demise of the WEU itself, the associated European Security and Defence Assembly / Assembly of Western European Union held its final meeting on 10 May 2011. It had previously met twice a year, with nearly 400 members drawn from 39 European countries (including all the EU Member States). The [Assembly](#) examined and supported intergovernmental activities at the European level in all areas of European security and defence including cooperation on defence equipment. Following the transfer of the WEU's operational activities to the EU, the Assembly's main focus was on scrutinising the EU's European Security and Defence Policy.

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

In November 1990, in the wake of the collapse of Communist regimes in central and eastern Europe, the Heads of State and Government of the countries which participated in the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) adopted the [Charter of Paris for a New Europe](#), which called on the CSCE 'to play its part in managing the historic change taking place in Europe' and to respond to the challenges of the post-Cold War period. It subsequently acquired a set of permanent institutions and operational capabilities, and in December 1994 the Budapest Summit of Heads of State or Government agreed to change its name from the CSCE to the OSCE.

It has 57 [Participating States](#) from Europe, Central Asia and North America, which take decisions 'by consensus on a politically, but not legally binding basis'. The OSCE is the world's largest regional security organisation, addressing 'a wide range of security-related concerns, including arms control, confidence- and security-building measures, human rights, national minorities, democratization, policing strategies, counter-terrorism and economic and environmental activities'.

United Nations (UN)

The maintenance of international [peace and security](#) is one of the United Nations' foremost purposes. Its tasks in this field include:

- [peacemaking and conflict prevention](#)
- [peacekeeping](#)
- [peace-building](#) and [disarmament](#)

There are currently two UN Peacekeeping missions in Europe: [UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus](#) (UNFICYP), and the [United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo](#) (UNMIK).

Amongst [Past peacekeeping operations](#) was the [United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia](#) (UNOMIG), which ended in June 2009.

UN peacekeeping missions are usually based on a mandate provided by the [Security Council](#) which defines its specific tasks. Its five Permanent Members, three of which - France, Russia and the United Kingdom - are European states, have the right to veto any decision. France and the UK as EU Member States have committed themselves - in theory - 'in the execution of their functions, [to] ensure the defence of the positions and the interests of the [European] Union, without prejudice to their responsibilities under the provisions of the United Nations Charter' (Article 34(2) of the [Treaty on European Union](#)).

It is the task of the UN [Secretary-General](#) to direct and manage UN peacekeeping missions and to report on their progress.

The European Union has repeatedly stated its commitment to multilateralism based on the United Nations and - in Article 21(2) (c) of the TEU - its will to:

preserve peace, prevent conflicts and strengthen international security, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

This was further confirmed in the EU's Security Strategy, adopted in 2003, with an implementation report issued in December 2008 (see Council website: [European Security Strategy](#)). In September 2003 the EU and the UN signed a [Joint Declaration on EU-UN co-operation in Crisis Management](#).

For further information, see also the [EU@UN](#) website, and specifically [EU policies and declarations on UN-related issues: peace & security](#).

Council of Europe (CoE)

Founded in 1949, the [Council of Europe](#) is Europe's oldest political organisation. The aims of the 47-member organisation are:

- to protect human rights, pluralist democracy and the rule of law
- to promote awareness and encourage the development of Europe's cultural identity and diversity
- to find common solutions to the challenges facing European society: such as discrimination against minorities, xenophobia, intolerance, bioethics and cloning, terrorism, trafficking in human beings, organised crime and corruption, cybercrime, violence against children
- to consolidate democratic stability in Europe by backing political, legislative and constitutional reform.

Meeting in Vienna in October 1993, at the first CoE Summit, the Heads of State or Government set new political aims for the organisation, characterising it as 'the guardian of democratic security - founded on human rights, democracy and the rule of law'. The phrase 'Democratic security is an essential complement to military security, and is a prerequisite for the continent's stability and peace' is widely used by - and in relation to - the CoE.

European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP)

Legal basis

The Preamble to the [Treaty on European Union](#) (TEU) states that the Union is:

Resolved to implement a common foreign and security policy including the progressive framing of a common defence policy, which might lead to a common defence ... thereby reinforcing the European identity and its independence in order to promote peace, security and progress in Europe and in the world.

Article 18 of the TEU concerns the appointment and role of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, responsible for conducting the Union's common foreign and security policy and contributing to the development of that policy. The High Representative presides over the Foreign Affairs Council, is a Vice-President of the Commission and heads the European External Action Service (EEAS).

The main provisions in the TEU concerning the common foreign and security policy are set out in Title V, Chapter 2. Articles 23-41 (Section 1) concern the CFSP; Articles 42-46 (Section 2) concern the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

Article 24(1) states, in part, that EU competence in relation to the CFSP:

shall cover all areas of foreign policy and all questions relating to the Union's security, including the progressive framing of a common defence policy that might lead to a common defence.

The same Article also sets out the rules and procedures under which the CFSP operates. Essentially, the policy is defined and implemented by the European Council and the Council and put into effect by the High Representative and by Member States. The Court of Justice largely has no jurisdiction with respect to these provisions.

Article 24(2) reads:

Within the framework of the principles and objectives of its external action, the Union shall conduct, define and implement a common foreign and security policy, based on the development of mutual political solidarity among Member States, the identification of questions of general interest and the achievement of an ever-increasing degree of convergence of Member States' actions.

Under Article 24(3), Member States are required to support EU external and security policy:

actively and unreservedly in a spirit of loyalty and mutual solidarity and shall comply with the Union's action in this area.

They are also to:

refrain from any action which is contrary to the interests of the Union or likely to impair its effectiveness as a cohesive force in international relations.

Article 25 identifies the ways in which the EU conducts the CFSP - which are by:

- (a) defining the general guidelines;
- (b) adopting decisions defining:
 - (i) actions to be undertaken by the Union;
 - (ii) positions to be taken by the Union;
 - (iii) arrangements for the implementation of the decisions referred to in points (i) and (ii);
- and by
- (c) strengthening systematic cooperation between Member States in the conduct of policy.

Articles 26-40 concern the roles and responsibilities of the various institutions and bodies concerned in the CFSP, including the European Council, Council, High Representative, Member States, European Parliament, Commission, Political and Security Committee, and European External Action Service.

Budgetary matters are dealt with in Article 41.

Articles 42-46 concern the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

Article 42(1) states:

The common security and defence policy shall be an integral part of the common foreign and security policy. It shall provide the Union with an operational capacity drawing on civilian and military assets. The Union may use them on missions outside the Union for peace-keeping, conflict prevention and strengthening international security in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter. The performance of these tasks shall be undertaken using capabilities provided by the Member States.

Article 42(2) adds that the CSDP shall include the progressive framing of a common EU defence policy, which will - when the European Council decides - lead to a common defence. Under Article 42(3), Member States are to make both civilian and military capabilities available to the EU and must undertake to progressively improve their military capabilities. The European Defence Agency is to identify operational requirements, help define a European capabilities and armaments policy, and assist the Council in evaluating Union military capabilities. Further details of the European Defence Agency are given in Article 45.

Article 42(6) provides for those Member States which wish to do so establish 'permanent structured cooperation' within the framework of the EU. Further details of structured cooperation are set out in Article 46.

Under Article 42(7), Member States have an obligation to offer aid and assistance to any Member State which is the victim of armed aggression. It also confirms that - for those States which are members of it - NATO is the foundation of their collective defence.

Article 43 defines the tasks mentioned in Article 42(1) as including:

joint disarmament operations, humanitarian and rescue tasks, military advice and assistance tasks, conflict prevention and peace-keeping tasks, tasks of combat forces in crisis management, including peace-making and post-conflict stabilisation. All these tasks may contribute to the fight against terrorism, including by supporting third countries in combating terrorism in their territories.

Under Article 44, the Council may entrust the implementation of a task defined in Article 43 to a group of Member States able to carry it out.

In the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#) (TFEU), Article 2(4) confirms that the Union shall have competence:

to define and implement a common foreign and security policy, including the progressive framing of a common defence policy.

Article 222 of the TFEU introduces a 'solidarity clause', under which:

1. The Union and its Member States shall act jointly in a spirit of solidarity if a Member State is the object of a terrorist attack or the victim of a natural or man-made disaster. The Union shall mobilise all the instruments at its disposal, including the military resources made available by the Member States, to:
 - (a) - prevent the terrorist threat in the territory of the Member States;
 - protect democratic institutions and the civilian population from any terrorist attack;
 - assist a Member State in its territory, at the request of its political authorities, in the event of a terrorist attack;
 - (b) assist a Member State in its territory, at the request of its political authorities, in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.
2. Should a Member State be the object of a terrorist attack or the victim of a natural or man-made disaster, the other Member States shall assist it at the

request of its political authorities. To that end, the Member States shall coordinate between themselves in the Council.

Background

After the failure of early attempts to create common European structures and policies in the field of security and defence in the 1950s and 1960s, little progress was seen for many years, although under the designation European Political Co-operation (EPC), incremental steps were taken after 1970. It was only when the Treaty on European Union (TEU) created the EU in 1992 that the project regained momentum. Under the EU's new 'three pillar' structure (dismantled under the Treaty of Lisbon), it was decided to make defence issues part of the intergovernmental 'second pillar' governing the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP).

The original reading in the [Treaty on European Union \(Article J.4\)](#) committed the Union to 'the eventual framing of a common defence policy, which might in time lead to a common defence'. Since the EU did not have any military capabilities of its own, the Article also referred to the Western European Union (WEU) as an 'integral part of the development of the Union' and requested the WEU 'to elaborate and implement decisions and actions of the Union which have defence implications'.

The Treaty of Amsterdam (see [Summaries of EU legislation](#)), which entered into force on 1 May 1999, revised the Treaty on European Union to provide the foundations for the development of a common defence policy. Provisions included the creation of a High Representative (HR) for CFSP. The High Representative, who was also the Secretary General of the Council of the European Union, assisted the Council in CFSP matters, 'contributing to the formulation, preparation and implementation of policy decisions, and, when appropriate and acting on behalf of the Council at the request of the Presidency, through conducting political dialogue with third parties.' Javier Solana was appointed as the first HR and took office on 18 October 1999.

On the basis of the changes introduced by the Treaty of Amsterdam, the [Cologne European Council](#) in June 1999 declared that:

In pursuit of our Common Foreign and Security Policy objectives and the progressive framing of a common defence policy, we are convinced that the Council should have the ability to take decisions on the full range of conflict prevention and crisis management tasks defined in the Treaty on European Union, the "Petersberg tasks". To this end, the Union must have the capacity for autonomous action, backed up by credible military forces, the means to decide to use them, and a readiness to do so, in order to respond to international crises without prejudice to actions by NATO. The EU will thereby increase its ability to contribute to international peace and security in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter.

In November 1999, Foreign and Defence Ministers from the Western European Union agreed to make WEU assets available to the EU (see [Luxembourg Declaration](#)).

At the December 1999 [Helsinki European Council](#), the EU Member States took steps to strengthen the ESDP, including moves to develop 'an autonomous capacity to take decisions and, where NATO as a whole is not engaged, to launch and conduct EU-led military operations in response to international crises.' However, EU leaders explicitly stressed that this did 'not imply the creation of a European army', confirmed that ESDP would respect the continuing importance of NATO to the collective defence of the Union, and acknowledged 'the primary responsibility of the United Nations Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security'.

The Treaty of Nice, which came into force in February 2003 (see [Summaries of EU legislation](#)), further amended the TEU articles relating to ESDP: the provisions on relations with the WEU were repealed, since its tasks were adopted by the EU; the Political and Security Committee was given powers relating to crisis management operations; enhanced co-operation between a number of Member States were extended to CFSP, but matters with military or defence implications were excluded.

ESDP and the European Security Strategy

Since its creation in 1999, the ESDP has been in a constant state of evolution. Ensuring the coherence of external action - between different EU policies and instruments, between the EU and Member States and between the EU and its partners - has been identified as a priority. The European Security Strategy (ESS) [A secure Europe in a Better World](#), sought to address the issue of coherence. Drafted by the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, and adopted at the December 2003 European Council, the EES aimed to enable the EU to tackle threats and global challenges, by becoming 'active, capable and more coherent'. EU leaders called for action to 'draw all the consequences of those strategic orientations and to mainstream them into all relevant European policies'.

The December 2007 European Council agreed that the European Security Strategy 'provides the Union with the relevant framework for its external policy' and asked the Secretary General / High Representative 'in full association with the Commission and in close cooperation with the Member States, to examine the implementation of the Strategy with a view to proposing elements on how to improve the implementation and, as appropriate, elements to complement it, for adoption by the European Council in December 2008' (see [Presidency Conclusions](#)).

The subsequent [Report on the Implementation of the European Security Strategy - Providing Security in a Changing World](#) stated:

Over the last decade, the European Security and Defence Policy, as an integral part of our Common Foreign and Security Policy, has grown in experience and capability, with over 20 missions deployed in response to crises, ranging from post-tsunami peace building in Aceh to protecting refugees in Chad.

It went on to say:

These achievements are the results of a distinctive European approach to foreign and security policy. But there is no room for complacency. To ensure our security and meet the expectations of our citizens, we must be ready to shape events. That means becoming more strategic in our thinking, and more effective and visible around the world. We are most successful when we operate in a timely and coherent manner, backed by the right capabilities and sustained public support.

The report noted that, five years on, the threats and challenges identified by the ESS in 2003 (Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction; Terrorism and Organised Crime; Energy Security; Climate change) 'have not gone away: some have become more significant, and all more complex.' Despite its achievements, 'implementation of the ESS remains work in progress', said the report, adding: 'For our full potential to be realised we need to be still more capable, more coherent and more active.' For military missions, 'we must continue to strengthen our efforts on capabilities, as well as mutual collaboration and burden-sharing arrangements. Experience has shown the need to do more, particularly over key capabilities such as strategic airlift, helicopters, space assets, and maritime surveillance ...'

The report also re-iterated the EU's commitment to the UN and NATO:

The UN stands at the apex of the international system. Everything the EU has done in the field of security has been linked to UN objectives. We have a unique moment to renew multilateralism, working with the United States and with our partners around the world. For Europe, the transatlantic partnership remains an irreplaceable foundation, based on shared history and responsibilities. The EU and NATO must deepen their strategic partnership for better co-operation in crisis management.

EU leaders said they 'share[d] the analysis' of the ESS implementation report, and adopted a Declaration intended to give 'fresh impetus' to the ESDP, enabling it to address challenges 'by gradually improving civilian and military capabilities' (see [Presidency Conclusions on ESDP](#), and [Declaration on strengthening capabilities](#); for further background, see also Mr Solana's article [The quiet success of European Defence](#), and [EU Institute for Security Studies: EU Security and Defence Policy: The first ten years \(1999-2009\)](#), [The European Security Strategy 2003-2008: Building on common interests, 10 years after St. Malo](#), and [EU Security and Defence: Core Documents 2007 \(Vol. VIII\)](#)).

On 23 February 2010, a report on the ESS and the CSDP by the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee called for faster deployment of EU operations (see [Press Release 20100223IPR69377](#)). Subsequently, on 10 March, MEPs called for the EU to conduct a strong and effective foreign, security and defence policy and for Parliament to be systematically consulted before CSDP missions are launched (see [Newsletter of the European Parliament 14/04/2010](#)).

On 21 October 2013, the Foreign Affairs Council adopted conclusions aimed at ensuring the continued pursuit of an effective EU policy on the new challenges presented by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their delivery systems (see [Press Release](#); see also [Six-monthly Progress Reports](#) on the implementation of the EU WMD Strategy).

ESDP bodies

At the [Nice European Council](#), EU leaders agreed to set up three permanent political and military structures to support ESDP, in particular by developing 'a coherent European approach to crisis management and conflict prevention'; ensuring 'synergy between the civilian and military aspects of crisis management'; and covering 'the full range of Petersberg tasks'. The three bodies are:

- The Political and Security Committee (PSC), which meets at ambassadorial level and - as a preparatory body for the Council - monitors the international situation and helps to define policies within the CFSP and ESDP (see [Council Decision 2001/78/CFSP](#) and [Summaries of EU legislation](#)).
- The European Union Military Committee (EUMC), comprising the Chiefs of Defence of the Member States (usually in the form of their permanent military representatives); this is the highest military body within the Council, providing the PSC with advice and recommendations on all military matters (see [EUMC website](#), [Summaries of EU legislation](#), and [Council Decision 2001/79/CFSP](#)).
- The European Union Military Staff (EUMS), which deals with crisis management and general military strategy, planning, assessing and making recommendations; it comprises military and civilian experts seconded to the Council Secretariat by the Member States (see [EUMS website](#), [Summaries of EU legislation](#), and [Council Decision 2005/395/CFSP](#) - amending the original 2001/80/CFSP).

In addition, July 2001 saw the creation of the [European Union Institute for Security Studies](#) (EUISS). An EU agency, the EUISS incorporates the former WEU Institute of Security Studies and is intended to 'help create a common European security culture, to

enrich the strategic debate, and systematically to promote the interests of the Union.' The WEU also transferred its Satellite Centre in Torrejón de Ardoz, Madrid, to the EU, with the [European Union Satellite Centre](#) (EUSC) also now an EU agency.

In accordance with the [Headline Goal 2010](#), the [European Defence Agency](#) (EDA) was established in July 2004 by [Council Joint Action 2004/551/CFSP](#). The EDA's role is 'to support the Member States and the Council in their effort to improve European defence capabilities in the field of crisis management and to sustain the European Security and Defence Policy as it stands now and develops in the future'. Within that remit, the Agency has four functions: developing defence capabilities; promoting Defence Research and Technology; promoting armaments co-operation; creating a competitive European Defence Equipment Market and strengthening the European Defence, Technological and Industrial Base. A Code of Conduct on Defence Procurement (CoC) was approved by Defence Ministers in November 2005 and an 'Intergovernmental regime to encourage competition in the European Defence Equipment Market' was launched on 1 July 2006 (see Institute for Security Studies [Towards a European Defence Market](#)).

In July 2005, the [Council adopted Joint Action 2005/575/CFSP](#) setting up a European Security and Defence College (ESDC) - a network of national institutes, colleges, academies and institutions within the EU which organises and conducts training activities in the field of EDSP (the original legislation was replaced on 23 June 2008 by [2008/550/CFSP](#); see also [Summaries of EU legislation](#) [archived] and [Future Perspectives of the European Security and Defence College](#)).

In January 2006 five EU Member States with paramilitary police forces - France, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain - set up a (non-permanent) European Gendarmerie Force (EGF), based in Vicenza (Italy), with the aim of deploying up to 800 gendarmes within 30 days. In December 2008, Romania became a member of the EGF; Poland is a partner in the initiative. Although not a structure under the ESDP, the EGF is 'first and foremost at the disposal of the EU' and 'able to deploy robust, operational and pre-organised police units that are fit for substitution and strengthening missions, in a rapid way', thereby complementing EU crisis management resources (see [EGF website](#)).

Within the Council Secretariat, and under the political control and strategic direction of the PSC, there is a Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) unit, responsible for ESDP crisis management operations (see [CPCC website](#)).

On 24 July 2013, the Commission adopted the Communication 'Towards a more competitive and efficient defence and security sector' ([COM\(2013\)542](#)) which included an Action Plan to enhance the efficiency and competitiveness of the sector (see also Press Release [IP/13/734](#) and EUISS Alert July 2013: [Securing the future of European defence](#)).

Military crisis management

The 1999 [Helsinki European Council](#) agreed a [Headline Goal](#) for the Union, requiring that Member States be able, by 2003, 'to deploy within 60 days and sustain for at least one year military forces of up to 50,000 - 60,000 persons capable of the full range of Petersberg tasks'.

All initiatives agreed at Helsinki should 'reinforce and extend the Union's comprehensive external role. With the enhancement and concertation of military and civilian crisis response tools, the Union will be able to resort to the whole range of instruments from diplomatic activity, humanitarian assistance and economic measures to civilian policing and military crisis management operations.'

Further progress on capability commitments was made in June 2000 at the [Feira European Council](#). In November 2000 a Capabilities Commitment Conference was held, at

which EU Member States confirmed their willingness to make the national contributions required to meet the Helsinki Headline Goal by 2003. According to paragraph 3 of the [Military Capabilities Commitment Declaration](#):

It remains essential to the credibility and effectiveness of the European security and defence policy that the Union's military capabilities for crisis management be reinforced so that the Union is in a position to intervene with or without recourse to NATO assets.

Following a Capability Improvement Conference attended by EU Defence Ministers in November 2001, a [Statement on Improving European Military Capabilities](#) was issued by the General Affairs Council. The Statement confirmed the Union's desire to meet Helsinki's Headline Goal and its 'determination to seek solutions and new forms of co-operation in order to develop the necessary military capabilities and make good the shortcomings identified, while making optimum use of resources.' The Statement also referred to a [European Capability Action Plan](#), 'designed to back up the political plan which gave rise to the headline goal and to create the necessary impetus for achieving the aims which the Union set in Helsinki.' The Plan was based on four principles:

- enhanced effectiveness and efficiency of European military capability efforts
- a 'bottom-up' approach to European defence co-operation
- co-ordination between EU Member States and co-operation with NATO
- the importance of broad public support.

Participants at the Conference increased the contributions to the Headline Goal which they had agreed the previous year. Although problems still remained with respect to issues such as communications and logistics, the resources pledged comprised 'more than 100,000 men, around 400 combat aircraft and 100 ships.' Non-EU European members of NATO and a number of Candidate Countries seeking EU membership also offered contributions.

The December 2001 [Laeken European Council](#) saw further developments concerning defence, with the Presidency issuing a 'Declaration on the operational capability of the common European Security and Defence Policy' (Annex II)). Leaders confirmed that:

the Union is now capable of conducting some crisis-management operations [... and] is determined to finalise swiftly arrangements with NATO. These will enhance the European Union's capabilities to carry out crisis-management operations over the whole range of Petersberg tasks. In the same way, the implementation of the Nice arrangements with the Union's partners will augment its means of conducting crisis-management operations. Development of the means and capabilities at its disposal will enable the Union progressively to take on more demanding operations.

In May 2004 EU Foreign Ministers decided that on the basis of both the European Security Strategy and the experience won in the first ESDP operations a new Headline Goal should be defined. The [Brussels European Council](#) of June 2004 adopted a [Headline Goal 2010](#). Based on the principles of 'interoperability, deployability and sustainability', commitments made in the Headline Goal 2010 included creating a civil-military cell within the EU Military Staff, setting up the European Defence Agency, improving co-ordination of strategic lift capabilities, developing rapidly-deployable battlegroups by 2007, and making available an aircraft carrier and associated air wing and escort by 2008.

At a [Military Capability Commitment Conference](#) in November 2004, Defence Ministers agreed on the creation of 13 Battlegroups, expected to comprise 1,000 to 1,500 troops each, according to the Headline Goal 2010. France, Italy, Spain and the UK were each to form their own groups, with the other nine groups being multinational. A Battlegroups

Co-ordination Conference held in November 2005 noted that full operational capability of the first units should be achieved by 2007 (see Council Factsheets for [2006](#)) and EUISS Brief 40, November 2013 [EU Battlegroups – ready to go?](#)).

Member States agreed in December 2006 on the principles of a Capability Development Plan (CDP), intended to provide 'a systematic and structured approach to building the capabilities required for operations under the European Security and Defence Policy far into the future' (see [Press Release](#)). The CDP was adopted in July 2008 (see [Capabilities Development Plan](#) pages).

The December 2008 European Council issued a [Declaration on strengthening capabilities](#). Covering both military and civilian aspects, it noted that in 2008, 'the European Union deployed in Chad and the Central African Republic the largest autonomous military operation in terms of personnel carried out under the ESDP' and that the EU was preparing to conduct its first naval operation off the coast of Somalia. In relation to the development of military capabilities, the Declaration stated:

On the basis of efficiency and operational need, we undertake to seek new methods for developing and optimising our capabilities, and will accordingly explore the pooling of efforts, specialisation and sharing of costs. In this context we will examine in particular:

- establishing joint capabilities by sharing national capabilities;
- organising and using capabilities on a collective, sustainable basis by pooling capabilities and devolving the management of assets to a multinational cooperative structure;
- for niche capabilities, or those which are rare or costly, specialisation, on a voluntary basis, which would require the strengthening of forms of mutual interdependence between European States;
- procurement of collective, multinational critical capabilities among some European countries.

The European Parliament Library Briefing [The maritime dimension of the EU's CSDP](#) of 5 September 2013 noted that:

As piracy off Africa has become a global security issue, the need for the European Union (EU) to protect its interests at sea through a maritime dimension to its Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) has also been recognised.

According to EUISS Issues 16, 2013, [Enabling the future: European military capabilities 2013-2025: Challenges and avenues](#):

In recent decades, a remarkable degree of strategic mobility and military reach, significant social and human capital, and an advanced industrial and scientific base have endowed the European Union with capable and effective armed forces. However, as centuries of European (or Western) dominance are currently giving way to a more multipolar and less governable world system, protecting common 'strategic interests' without adequate military capabilities may become ever more difficult.

Although Europeans remain relatively well-equipped to mobilise the tools needed to tackle potential threats, within the EU there is limited awareness or recognition of the emerging challenges, a basic disinterest in strategic matters, and relatively few voices calling for effective and sustainable armed forces. In addition, the European political and institutional landscape regarding defence and military matters is extremely segmented. It is in this context that this Report seeks to place European military capabilities in a broader perspective and highlight potential avenues for exploration and development over the next decade.

The EUISS Brief 38 [Funding peace operations: Better value for EU money](#), November 2013, highlighted the fact that:

despite being a major financial contributor to a large number of peace operations, under current conditions the EU does not wield political influence commensurate with its financial engagement.

See also EUISS Brief 41, November 2013 [Ten years of EU military operations](#).

Civilian crisis management and conflict prevention

In order to be able to carry out the full range of the [Petersberg tasks](#), the European Union has also had to develop the civilian aspects of its crisis management capabilities. At the June 1999 [Cologne European Council](#), it was decided that these 'non-military crisis response tools' should be enhanced and better co-ordinated at an EU level. A subsequent 'Presidency Report on non-Military Crisis Management' was adopted by the Helsinki European Council, in December of the same year (see Annex IV of the [Presidency Conclusions](#)).

At the June 2000 [Feira European Council](#), EU leaders for the first time identified four priorities for EU civilian crisis management: Police, Strengthening of the rule of law, Strengthening civilian administration, Civil protection (see Appendix 3 of the [Presidency Conclusions](#)).

A set of targets, known as the Civilian Headline Goal 2008, was agreed at the December 2004 European Council (see [Presidency Conclusions](#), the associated [ESDP Presidency Report](#) and [Summaries of EU legislation](#); a [Final Report on the Civilian Headline Goal 2008](#) was issued in 2007).

At a Civilian Capabilities Improvement Conference on 21 November 2005, Ministers 'noted that initial responses from Member States [to the Civilian Headline Goal 2008] indicate likely shortfalls against the capability requirement in a number of areas' and agreed priorities for future action (see [Declaration](#)).

Following a further Civilian Capabilities Improvement Conference in 2007, a [Ministerial Declaration](#) confirmed that civilian crisis management is an important tool under the ESDP, and approved a new [Civilian Headline Goal 2010](#) (CHG 2010). To be achieved by the end of 2010, it is intended to 'help ensure that the EU can conduct crisis management, in line with the European Security Strategy, by deploying civilian crisis management capabilities of high quality, with the support functions and equipment required in a short time-span in sufficient quantity'.

A [Declaration on strengthening capabilities](#), issued by the December 2008 European Council, stated:

We want the Union, with all the resources at its disposal, to enhance its contribution to international peace and security and to develop its capacity to tackle the risks and threats to its security as identified in the European Security Strategy and the document updating it. Strengthening available capabilities in Europe will therefore be the principal challenge faced in the years ahead. In a tough budgetary environment, such a goal can only be achieved through a joint, sustained and shared effort which meets operational needs.

Referring specifically to the Civilian Headline Goal 2010, the Declaration identified the following priority objectives:

- strengthening the EU's capability to plan and deploy several missions at the same time, in particular in rapid-response situations;
- continuing to develop suitable management tools for efficiently mobilising capabilities needed for civilian missions;
- improving training for personnel likely to be deployed on missions, and continuing to strengthen civilian response teams;
- developing the administrative, financial, logistical and human resources aspects of the mission support function, including by seeking to optimise the synergy between civilian and military assets;
- developing national strategies to facilitate the deployment of mission personnel and encourage exchange of good practices between Member States;
- strengthening coherence and synergies between ESDP missions and other European Union instruments;
- introducing a proper feedback system for ESDP civilian missions.

While military crisis management is a purely intergovernmental domain, both [conflict prevention](#) and civilian [crisis management](#) are fields where the Community institutions (especially the European Commission) and the intergovernmental bodies work together. The Commission has for instance developed a Rapid Reaction Mechanism 'to allow the Community to respond urgently to the needs of countries threatened with or undergoing severe political instability or suffering from the effects of a technological or natural disaster' (see [Summaries of EU legislation](#))[archived].

Three civilian operations were launched in 2008: the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in Georgia, European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) in Kosovo, EU Security Sector Reform (SSR) in Guinea-Bissau (the Council website has a [Map of ESDP civilian, police and military operations since 2003](#) and a list of ongoing and completed [EU missions and operations](#); see also the factsheet [European security and defence policy: the civilian aspects of crisis management](#) and the Council's [Civilian crisis management](#) page).

On 26 October 2010, the Commission adopted the Communication 'Towards a stronger European disaster response: the role of civil protection and humanitarian assistance' (COM(2010)600; see also Press Releases [IP/10/1381](#) and [MEMO/10/523](#)). In it, the Commission presented proposals for improving the Union's ability to respond to disasters, both inside and outside its borders, including creating a European Emergency Response Centre.

On 28 June 2013, the Commission adopted a Proposal for a Council Decision 'authorising Member States to ratify, in the interests of the European Union, the Arms Trade Treaty' (COM(2013)482; see also Press Release [IP/13/413](#) ; check progress via [PreLex dossier](#)).

On 26 July 2013, the Commission adopted the '2012 Annual Report on the Instrument for Stability' (COM(2013)563; see also Press Release [IP/13/751](#)). The report highlighted the work undertaken through the Instrument for Stability (IfS) in helping prevent conflicts and responding to crises and security and other threats worldwide.

The November 2013 European Union Institute for Security Studies Brief 45 [Upgrading the Union's response to disasters](#) provides an overview of the EU's mechanisms for dealing with disasters in the context of the Treaty of Lisbon's solidarity clause and Member States' responsibilities in terms of mutual assistance.

Fighting terrorism

A key threat addressed by the 2003 European Security Strategy was international terrorism. In the wake of the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, the European

Council adopted, on 21 September 2001, an action plan to combat terrorism (see [Presidency Conclusions](#)) which focused on the following issues:

- police and judicial cooperation
- international legal instruments
- funding terrorism
- air security
- EU global action.

A detailed 'road map' listed some 150 measures to be implemented under the action plan (see [text](#), courtesy of Statewatch).

On 13 June 2002, the Council adopted a [Framework Decision on combating terrorism](#) and in the same month the Seville European Council issued a Declaration on the contribution of the CFSP, including the ESDP, to the fight against terrorism (see Annex V of the [Presidency Conclusions](#)).

The Justice and Home Affairs Council met in extraordinary session on 19 March 2004, shortly after the terrorist bombings in Madrid, 'to give a renewed impulse to the European response to the terrorist threat'. The [Press Release](#) 'noted that the European Union's broad objectives in this area are set out in the Union's action plan to combat terrorism adopted by the Brussels European Council on 21 September 2001', and that 'Member States committed themselves to implement on an EU-wide basis existing measures relevant to the fight against terrorism'. On 25 March, the European Council adopted a [Declaration on combating terrorism](#) and appointed [Gijs de Vries](#) as the Union's first Counter-terrorism Coordinator (he was succeeded in September 2007 by [Gilles de Kerchove](#)).

The 2001 plan for tackling terrorism was revised in June 2004 and a [first review](#) was published in December of that year (progress reports on implementing the action plan can be accessed via an [archive](#)).

In response to the 7 July 2005 terrorist attacks in London, the December 2005 European Council adopted a [European Union Counter-Terrorism Strategy](#) which set the EU the strategic commitment 'to combat terrorism globally while respecting human rights and to make Europe safer, allowing its citizens to live in an area of freedom, security and justice'. The [European Union Counter-Terrorism Strategy](#) groups actions under four headings - Prevent, Protect, Pursue, Respond. The [Press Release](#) made clear that the new Strategy:

is made up of a series of powerpoint slides followed by a narrative. The strategy serves two principal functions: (a) to create a clear and coherent framework for the EU's work on counter terrorism, and set out concrete objectives for action, and (b) to make Europe's work on counter terrorism more comprehensible and transparent for the general public.

In its Communication 'The EU Counter-Terrorism Policy: main achievements and future challenges', adopted on 20 July 2010 as [COM\(2010\)386](#), the Commission set out major achievements and future challenges under the four strands identified in the 2005 EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy: prevent, protect, pursue and respond. The review helped inform the development of the Internal Security Strategy (see also Press Releases [IP/10/987](#) and [MEMO/10/350](#)).

The Justice and Home Affairs Council of 9-10 June 2011 adopted [Conclusions](#) 'on enhancing the links between internal and external aspects of counter-terrorism'.

At the meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council of 7-8 June 2012 the EU Counter Terrorism co-ordinator presented his latest [recommendations](#) focusing on 'the practical measures that could be taken to address the most worrying terrorism phenomena at present: "lone wolf" terrorists and the emergence of "safe havens" outside the EU.'

On 27 November 2013, the Commission adopted the Communication 'A European terrorist finance tracking system (EU TFTS)' ([COM\(2013\)842](#)), which concluded that:

the case to present at this stage a proposal for an EU TFTS is not clearly demonstrated.

At the same time, the Commission adopted a brief Communication on the Joint Report from the Commission and the US Treasury Department on the value of data provided under the TFTP ([COM\(2013\)843](#); see also Press Release [IP/12/1366](#)).

EU-NATO relations

NATO has followed the emerging ESDP with some concern. Non-EU members of the Transatlantic Alliance, and especially the United States, have wanted to ensure that a common European policy would not make NATO redundant in the long run. The US administration has stressed that, although ESDP could be an opportunity for the long-expected increase in commitment on the part of the Europeans, there would be a limit on how far the project could go, summarised by the 'three D's': no decoupling (between the US and Europe), no duplication (of NATO and EU resources), no discrimination (against European members of NATO which are not EU Member States)

It had long been clear that the EU would need access to NATO assets and capabilities in order to carry out independent crisis management missions, and in 1996 the WEU was authorised to use them (see [Statement by NATO Secretary General, Dr. Javier Solana](#) [sic]).

At the December 2002 [Copenhagen European Council](#), a deal was reached with NATO Member Turkey concerning the use of NATO assets by the EU. Under this framework NATO allows the EU 'access to NATO assets for crisis management', while the European Union ensures the 'fullest possible involvement of non-EU European members of NATO within ESDP' (see the Declaration attached to [Remarks by Javier Solana](#)).

The new framework for [EU-NATO permanent relations](#), which incorporated the Berlin plus arrangements, was finally concluded in March 2003 and on that basis the EU announced its willingness to engage in its first operations under ESDP. These included the Police Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Union's first ever military mission, where it replaced the NATO-led Stabilisation Force (SFOR) in Macedonia. (For more information see also [Berlin Plus](#), [EU-NATO: the framework for permanent relations and Berlin Plus](#), EUISS: [The EU, NATO and European Defence - A slow train coming](#), [Summaries of EU legislation](#) and European Parliament Library Briefing [EU-NATO partnership in stagnation](#)).

Internal Security Strategy

The text of 'The Stockholm Programme - An open and secure Europe serving and protecting citizens' was published on 4 May 2010 (see Official Journal [C115](#)). Spanning 2010-2014, it defines strategic guidelines for legislative and operational planning within the area of freedom, security and justice. In it, the European Council - amongst other things - called on the Council and the Commission to define a comprehensive Internal Security Strategy for the EU.

In response, on 25 February 2010 Ministers adopted the Union's first Internal Security Strategy, setting out the main threats and challenges the EU faces, including terrorism, organised crime, cyber-crime, forest fires and energy shortages. The Strategy seeks to integrate action on law enforcement and judicial cooperation, border management and civil protection.

On 22 November 2010, the Commission adopted the Communication 'The EU Internal Security Strategy in Action: Five steps towards a more secure Europe' ([COM\(2010\)673](#); see also Press Releases [IP/10/1535](#) and [MEMO/10/598](#)). It comprised 41 actions targeting the most urgent security threats facing the EU, including terrorist networks and cybercrime, and also addressed crisis response.

Meeting on 24-25 February 2011, Justice and Home Affairs Ministers adopted [Conclusions](#) on the Commission's Communication. The Council agreed:

that the five strategic objectives for internal security developed by the Commission ... are crucial to further strengthening freedom, security and justice in the European Union.

(See also European Parliament [Report and Resolution](#) of 22 May 2012 on the EU's Internal Security Policy).

On 25 November 2011, the Commission adopted its 'First Annual Report on the implementation of the EU Internal Security Strategy' ([COM\(2011\)790](#)). The report assessed implementation of the Internal Security Strategy in Action and outlined the state of EU internal security with regard to each of the ISS's five objectives.

The Commission's 'Second Report on the implementation of the EU Internal Security Strategy' was adopted on 10 April 2013 as [COM\(2013\)179](#) (see also Press Release [IP/13/317](#)). It concluded:

Implementation of the Internal Security Strategy is well on its way. As this report has shown, a lot has been done under the five objectives. However, we still have a way to go. For 2013 organised crime is still considered to be one of the major challenges for EU internal security to address. Money laundering, corruption, trafficking and mobile organised crime groups are just some of the threats foreseen. Cybercrime continues to be of particular concern. Another important challenge for 2013 is to improve tools to better counter growing violent extremism.

The next and last report on implementation of the ISS will be presented in mid-2014. The report will assess whether the objectives of the ISS have been met and also consider future challenges within the field of internal security.

On 30 June 2013, EU High Representative Catherine Ashton issued a statement concerning allegations that EU premises had been under surveillance by US intelligence services (see Press Releases [MEMO/13/633](#)). The Commission issued its own statement on 1 July (Press Releases [MEMO/13/634](#) and [MEMO/13/641](#)).

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