



The idea of a European defence emerged just after the Second World War, in a world divided into Western and Soviet blocs. The war in Ukraine has placed the issue of European defence back on the agenda.

European defence: key dates

<p>1949</p> <p>Signature of the North Atlantic Treaty which lays the foundations for the eponymous organisation (NATO).</p>	<p>1954</p> <p>The European Defence Community (EDC) project is rejected. Europe shelve its common defence project and commits to NATO.</p>	<p>February 1992</p> <p>After the end of the Cold War, Europe renews its common defence policy with the Treaty of Maastricht, which introduces cooperation regarding the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP).</p>
<p>May 1992</p> <p>Germany and France create Eurocorps, a now multinational military force that serves both the European Union and NATO.</p>	<p>1998</p> <p>Franco-British Summit in Saint-Malo: the United Kingdom accepts that the EU develops autonomous military capacity.</p>	<p>2001</p> <p>Signature of the Treaty of Nice, which enshrines the creation of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).</p>
<p>2003</p> <p>Launch of Operation Artemis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the European Union's first autonomous military operation.</p>	<p>2004</p> <p>Creation of the European Defence Agency which promotes European cooperation for defence capabilities.</p>	
<p>2007</p> <p>With the Treaty of Lisbon, the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) follows on from the ESDP with a view to highlighting the aim of common defence.</p>	<p>2016</p> <p>The European Council adopts the EU "Global Strategy" on foreign and security policy which sets out the EU's aims in this field.</p>	<p>2022</p> <p>Member States adopt the "Strategic Compass".</p>

The impact of the war in Ukraine on the construction of European defence

24 FEB. On 24 February 2022, Vladimir Putin launches an offensive across Ukraine.

The **European Peace Facility**, created in 2021, is triggered in an unprecedented manner to support the Ukrainian armed forces.

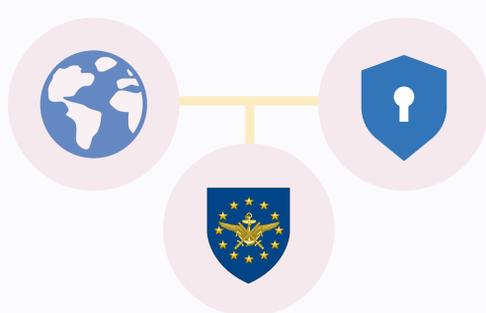
This war has given rise to several reactions from the EU and its Member States. **Denmark**, which had refused to take part in the CFSP in 1992, decided to join it by referendum on 1 June 2022. In addition, Finland and Sweden have applied to join **NATO**.

This budgetary instrument is used to finance operational defence initiatives and is currently endowed with €5 billion for the 2021-2027 period.

In August 2022, European defence ministers launched a process to create a military assistance mission in Ukraine which would include European military forces providing training for the Ukrainian armed forces.

What is the CSDP?

The aim of the Common Security and Defence Policy is to provide a **European response to international conflicts**, to strengthen international security and prevent future conflicts, on the basis of Member States' military and civilian capacities.



➔ This policy includes:

- a Solidarity Clause** which provides that:

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 (...) (art. 222 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union).
- a Mutual Assistance Clause** providing that if a Member State is the victim of armed aggression,

the other Member States shall have towards it an obligation of aid and assistance by all the means in their power (art. 42.7 of the Treaty on the European Union).
- a "Strategic Compass"**:

This is a joint analysis of threats carried out by Member States which proposes practical measures concerning crisis management, partnerships and the development of military capacity. In particular, it provides for the creation of a rapid deployment force of 5000 European servicemen and women.

Who conducts the European defence policy?

The **Political and Security Committee (PSC)**, under the authority of the Council, is the main decision-making body. It exercises the political control and strategic direction of crisis management operations. It is made up of permanent representatives of the Member States.

The **Council of the European Union, in defence ministers' configuration**, under the chairmanship of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, is the **competent body in charge of the CSDP**. On a proposal from the PSC, it defines the **EU's strategic directions**.

The **European Union Military Committee plans and directs military operations**. It issues opinions and recommendations to the PSC.

Ongoing EU military operations

- Mediterranean**
Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI, launched in 2020.
- Mali**
Operation EUTM MALI, launched in 2013.
- Central African Republic**
Operation EUTM RCA, launched in 2016.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina**
Operation EUFOR ALTHEA, launched in 2004.
- Somalia**
1. Operation EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, launched in 2008.
2. Operation EUTM-S, launched in 2010.
- Mozambique**
Operation EUTM MOZ, launched in 2021.

Today, more than 4000 persons are deployed worldwide as part of 18 EU military and civilian missions.