

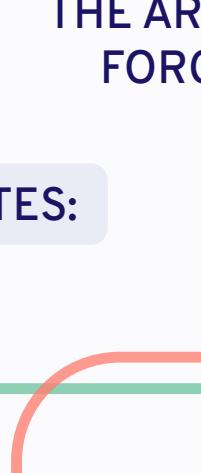


Building a European defense system has been a recurring ambition in Europe since the end of the Second World War (see infographic "Defending Europe: Episode 1 - Key Dates"). From the Treaty of Brussels and the establishment of the Western European Union, to the Treaty of Washington and the creation of NATO and later, the Pleven Plan for a European Defense Community, successive initiatives have sought to organize Europe's security and defence. Over time, these efforts have mobilized a wide range of actors - states, regional and intergovernmental organisations, industrial stakeholders - across all levels of strategic planning.

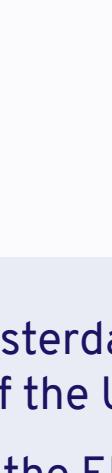
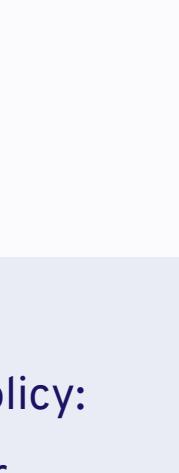
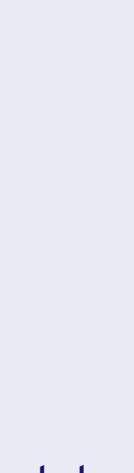
Strategic level - collective defense

NATO	EUROPEAN UNION (EU)
<p>Role: Collective defense (Article 5), nuclear deterrence</p>  <p>FR UK US</p> <p>Members: including 23 EU 32 States</p> <p>Key bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> North Atlantic Council (NAC) Integrated Military Command (SHAPE) NATO Capability Groups (standardization) 	<p>1 European Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defines strategic policy guidelines Unanimous decisions on defense matters <p>2 Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EU's operational instrument for foreign policy 4 pillars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defense (military missions) Industry (EDF, PESCO, EDA) Civil (police, rule of law) Partnerships (NATO, UN, AU)

Diplomatic level

EEAS (European External Action Service)	HIGH REPRESENTATIVE (HR/VP)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Ministry of Foreign Affairs Support to the High Representative and management of EU delegations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairs the Foreign Affairs Council Heads the EEAS and oversees the CSDP Vice-President of the European Commission 

Military operational level (command & missions)

MPCC (Military Planning and Conduct Capability)	CPCC (Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability)	CIVILIAN HQ (police missions, rule of law)	EU HEADQUARTERS (EUHQ)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU Military Headquarters (non-executive missions) Operational capacity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> up to 2,500 soldiers from 2025 onwards 	 <p>CIVILIAN HQ (police missions, rule of law)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic analysis Force generation 

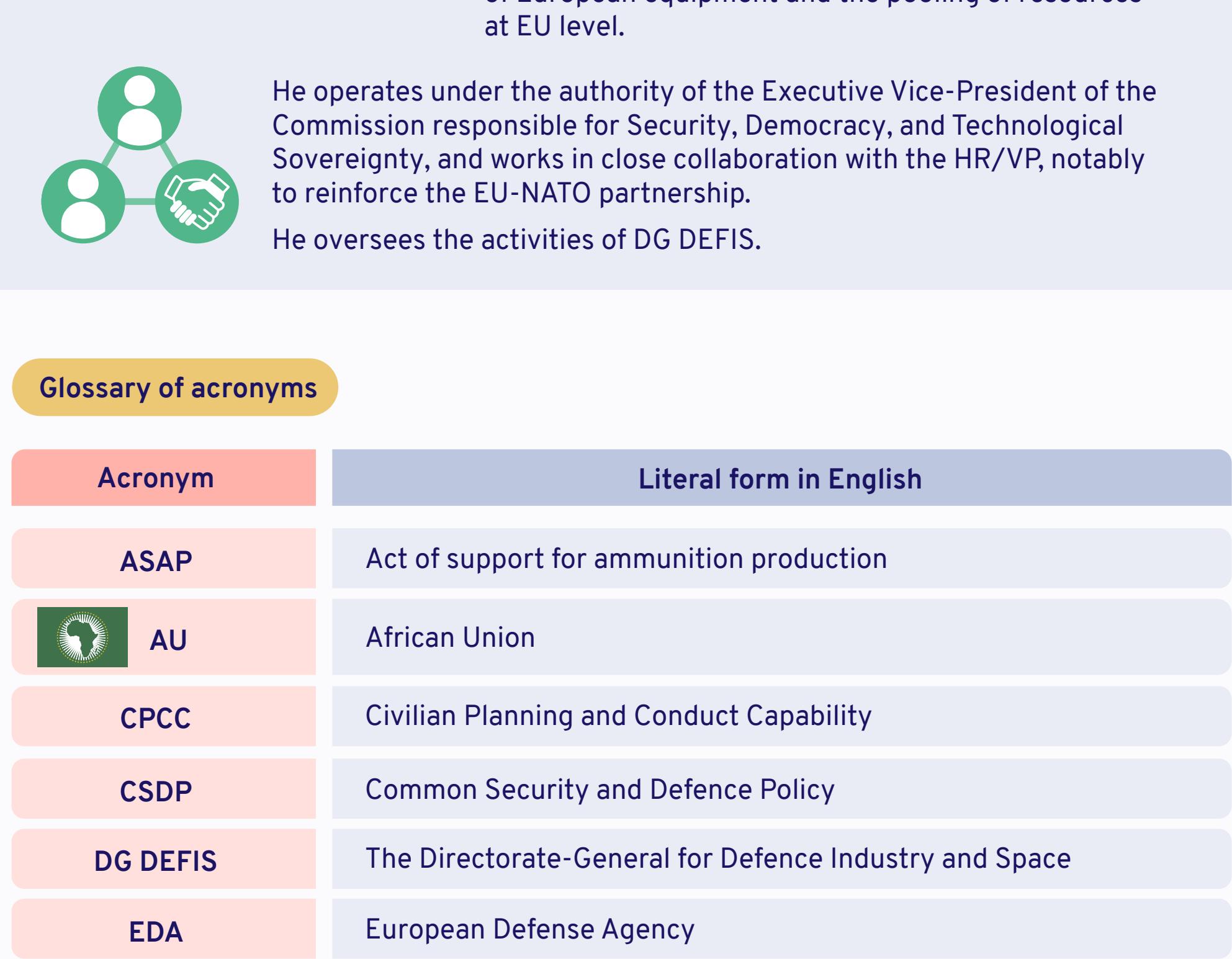
Capability/industrial/armaments level

EUROPEAN COMMISSION	MEMBER STATES
<p>via DG DEFIS since 2024 a European Commissioner for Defense and Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial tools for innovation and defense industry (EDF, SAFE, EDIP, ASAP, EDIRPA) European Defense Industry Strategy (EDIS) White Paper on European Defense - Preparing for 2030 	<p>EDF (European Defense Agency)</p> <p>Industrial and capability coordination among Member States</p> <p>OCAR (Organization for Joint Armament Cooperation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management of industrial programs (A400M, FREMM, etc.) <p>PESCO (Permanent Structured Cooperation)</p> <p>Capability projects (military mobility, drones, cyberdefense, etc.)</p> 

Member States



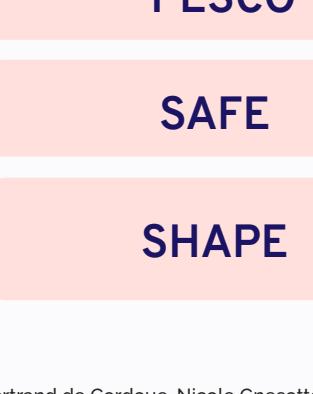
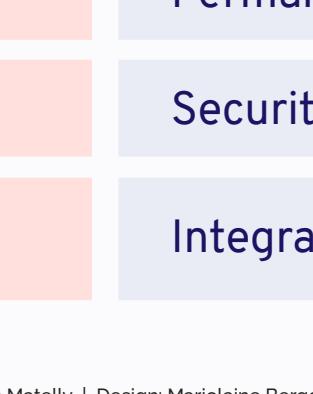
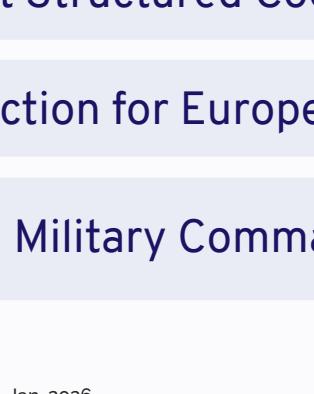
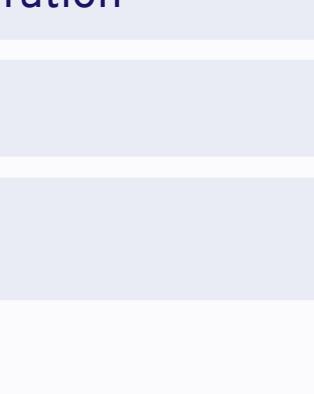
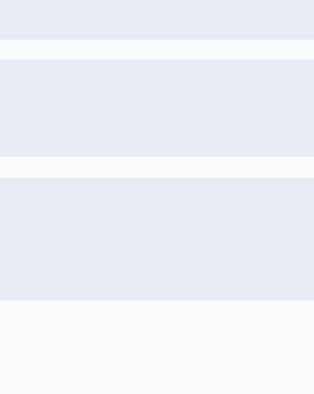
THREE CATEGORIES OF STATES:



High Representative

1999	Treaty of Amsterdam	The Treaty of Amsterdam established the post of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy: ↳ to embody the EU's diplomatic voice and to bring greater coherence to external action, which has been fragmented between the Member States.
2009	Treaty of Lisbon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Profound transformation Initially limited to a role of intergovernmental coordination <p>The High Representative became simultaneously:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice-President of the Commission President of the Foreign Affairs Council European External Action Service (EEAS), a genuine European diplomatic service bringing together national diplomats and EU civil servants.
		<p>While his influence still depends largely on the political will of the Member States and on the personality of the officeholder, rising geopolitical tensions, Sino-American rivalry, and offensives on Europe, have gradually raised expectations surrounding the role, which has come to be seen as a key pillar of European strategic autonomy.</p>

The position has been held successively by:

				
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European Commissioner for Defense and Space

Sept. 24		The creation, for the first time, of a European Commissioner for Defense and Space by the new European Commission reflects a growing commitment to strengthen the European defense industrial base.
		<p>Approved by the European Parliament in November.</p> <p>Takes office with the rest of the Commission.</p> <p>His mandate focuses primarily on the defense industrial base and, the facilitation of joint procurement.</p> <p>His first mission statement defines the scope of the position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening European investment and industrial capacity in the defence sector. Pursuing an autonomous and coherent European Defence with a priority given to the purchase of European equipment and the pooling of resources at EU level.

He operates under the authority of the Executive Vice-President of the Commission responsible for Security, Democracy, and Technological Sovereignty, and works in close collaboration with the HR/VP, notably to reinforce the EU-NATO partnership.

He oversees the activities of DG DEFIS.

Glossary of acronyms

Acronym	Literal form in English
ASAP	Act of support for armament production
AU	African Union
CPCC	Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability
CSDP	Common Security and Defence Policy
DG DEFIS	The Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space
EDA	European Defense Agency
EDF	European Defense Fund
EDIP	Program for the European defense industry
EDIRPA	Instrument for strengthening the European defense industry through joint procurement
EDIS	European strategy for the defense industry
EEAS	European External Action Service
ESDP	European Security and Defence Policy
EUMS	European Union Military Staff
HR	High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
MPCC	Military Planning and Conduct Capability
NAC	North Atlantic Council
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OCAR	Joint Armament Cooperation
PESCO	Permanent Structured Cooperation
SAFE	Security Action for Europe
SHAPE	Integrated Military Command

Source: Institut Jacques Delors, Nicolas Ghesquière, Adèle Maitre, Delphine Maréchal, Report 1, Jan. 2024.

Bertrand de Cordoba, Nicolas Ghesquière, Adèle Maitre, Delphine Maréchal, Report 1, Jan. 2024.