

Policies / Mechanisms	Role / responsibilities	Members	Key date
EU – CSDP (Common Security and Defence Policy)	Crisis management, civil-military operations, capacity building, international security	27 EU Member States	2009 (Lisbon Treaty)
PESCO (Permanent Structured Cooperation)	Joint military projects (mobility, drones, healthcare, cyber, etc.)	25 EU Member States	2017
EDF (European Defence Fund)	Funding for cooperative R&D projects	UE	2021 €8 billion 2021-27
Strategic Compass	Sets priorities (threats, capabilities, resilience, partnerships)	UE	2022
EDIRPA (European Defence Industry Reinforcement through Common Procurement Act)	Encouraging joint procurement of defence equipment (ammunition, air/missile defence systems, platforms)	EU Member States (and associated countries)	2022-2023 €310 billion 2024-25
ASAP (Act in Support of Ammunition Production)	Increase in ammunition production (shells, explosives, rockets)	EU Member States (and associated countries)	2023 €500 million 2023-25
EDIP (European Defence Industry Programme)	Support for the European defence industry: production, supply chain, cooperation, integration of Ukraine, "security of supply" mechanism	EU Member States (and associated countries)	Proposal date 5 March 2024 Initial budget ~€1.5 billion (2025-2027)
SAFE (Security Action For Europe)	Loans to Member States for urgent defence investments, collaborative procurement, industrial capacity building (air/missile systems, ammunition, drones, cyber, military mobility)	EU Member States (and associated countries)	2025 €150 billion

Solidarity and mutual assistance

Criterion	Article 5 ¹ – NATO	Article 42.7 ² – TEU (EU)
Nature	Collective defence	Mutual assistance
Logic	"An attack against one is an attack against all."	Duty to provide aid and assistance by all means.
Coordination of response	Through NATO's integrated structures and command	Through intergovernmental decisions without an integrated military command
Available resources	May involve the use of armed force	At the discretion of each State (military, logistical, financial, etc.)
Scope	Defence of member states' territory	Armed aggression on the territory of an EU Member State
Military structure	Integrated military command + NATO planning	none integrated military structure
Activation (to date)	1 time (12 September 2001 – 9/11 attacks, United States)	1 time (17 November 2015 – Paris attacks, France)
Legal basis	Washington Treaty (1949)	Treaty of Lisbon (2009)
Nuclear deterrence	Yes (United States, France, United Kingdom)	No (the EU does not have its own nuclear deterrent)
Logic	Collective, centralised, military	Solidarity-based, intergovernmental, sovereign choice of means

1. Article 5: "The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be regarded as an attack against them all; consequently, they agree that, if such an attack occurs, each of them, in the exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence recognised by Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, shall assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the other Parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and ensure security in the North Atlantic area. Any armed attack of this nature and any measures taken in response shall be immediately brought to the attention of the Security Council. These measures shall cease when the Security Council has taken the necessary steps to restore and maintain international peace and security."

2. Article 42-7: "In the event of an armed attack against the territory of a Member State, the other Member States shall provide aid and assistance by all means in their power, in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. This does not affect the specific nature of the security and defence policy of certain Member States. Commitments and cooperation in this field shall remain consistent with the commitments undertaken within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, which remains, for those States which are members of it, the foundation of their collective defence and the forum for its implementation."

EU external operations

Since the launch of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) in 2003, the EU has conducted civilian and military operations aimed at crisis and conflict management in its broader neighbourhood.

These missions, carried out under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), cover a very broad spectrum:

- training and advice for armed or police forces,
- counter-piracy,
- maritime surveillance,
- support for security reforms or peace processes.
- post-conflict stabilisation,

+ 30 operations

- over 20 years in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.
- Non-coercive operations conducted with host state consent.

Rise in hybrid threats + terrorism + instability (Sahel, Red Sea):

- pressure to improve responsiveness, equipment, coordination

Established in 2022, the European Peace Facility – funding military aid to partners such as Ukraine – signals a decisive shift towards a more assertive European power role

External operations since 2003:

40 civilian and military missions and operations abroad

To date, 21 CSDP missions and operations are underway:

- 12 civilian
- 8 military
- 1 hybrid (civilian-military)

The personnel deployed amounts to approximately:

- 3,500 military personnel
- 300 civilians

European support for the war in Ukraine

In response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, European countries swiftly tapped the European Peace Facility to fund military support.

the 2021-2027 budget period

- Originally allocated a budget of €5.7 billion
- This fund can now raise up to €17 billion

A development linked to the new expenditure committed by the EU-27 to supply arms to Ukraine: €6.1 billion has thus been committed to support Kyiv

Adoption of the **Ukraine Facility**

- a multi-annual financial instrument through which the European Union
- has pledged to provide up to €50 billion in support to Kyiv between 2024 and 2027

It combines loans and grants aimed at:

- stabilising the Ukrainian economy,
- financing reconstruction efforts, and
- supporting the reforms needed to bring the country closer to the EU.

Designed to provide predictable and structural support, it forms the cornerstone of Europe's long-term commitment to Ukraine during the war.

Some figures on European support for Ukraine:

Through its budget, the EU has allocated:

- 11.6 billion € in loans and grants (2022)
- €19.5 billion in short-term aid, including €18 billion in concessional loans (2023)

The "Ukraine Facility" scheme aims to mobilise up to €50 billion in loans and grants for Ukraine between 2024 and 2027

A new mechanism ("Ukraine Reserve Mechanism") proposed by the Commission could amount to up to €100 billion (or €88.9 billion at 2025 prices) under the 2028-2034 budget.

Looking beyond the institutional framework of the EU, according to the database of the Kiel Institute for the World Economy:

- "Team Europe" (the EU and its Member States) ≈ €173.5 billion

The next expected budget tranche for Ukraine amounts to approximately €6 billion

- Nov. 2025
- €4.1 billion in "ERA loans"
- + €1.9 billion via the Ukraine Facility