



**Tenth progress report on the implementation of the common set of proposals
endorsed by EU and NATO Councils
on 6 December 2016 and 5 December 2017**

NATO and the EU remain steadfast defenders of international peace and security and the rules-based international order, in line with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Both organisations recognise that Russia's actions pose the most significant threat to Euro-Atlantic security. The instability in Europe's Eastern and Southern neighbourhoods, rising tensions in the Western Balkans, and the impact of security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region to Euro-Atlantic security, all underline the significance of closely coordinated, mutually reinforcing and complementary EU and NATO approaches.

The changes in the strategic environment highlight the urgent need to enhance defence readiness, notably by increasing European defence spending, addressing capability shortfalls, expanding defence industrial capacity and ramping up defence production. These shared security challenges require further strengthening of the transatlantic cooperation through an even more robust, coherent and complementary NATO-EU partnership.

The NATO-EU strategic partnership continues to be taken forward in full respect of the agreed guiding principles enshrined in the three Joint Declarations on EU-NATO cooperation of 2016, 2018 and 2023.

The present 10th report on the implementation of the 74 common proposals - which were endorsed by the EU and NATO Councils in parallel processes in 2016 and 2017 - elaborates on substantial progress achieved between June 2024 and May 2025 by demonstrating concrete deliverables across the entire spectrum of the cooperation agenda. EU and NATO staff engagement further expanded, among others through the launch of new Structured Dialogues, which now cover resilience; military mobility; climate change, security and defence; emerging and disruptive technologies; space; cyber; and defence industry, as well as through regular coordination between both organisations on Ukraine.

In light of the current threats and challenges to international peace and stability, and with the sustained support by all NATO Allies and EU Member States, the two staffs will continue to strengthen and develop the mutually beneficial NATO-EU cooperation.

Political Dialogue

Political dialogue increased substantially, reflecting the determination of the new EU and NATO leadership to bolster mutual understanding, increase interactions and further strengthen cooperation across all areas of the NATO-EU partnership, in particular in the context of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and EU initiatives to boost European defence.

A clear message of unity was conveyed by the participation of the President of the European Council and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy at the 75th NATO Summit in Washington D.C. in July 2024. This was reaffirmed in the regular bilateral meetings of the NATO Secretary General with key EU counterparts, notably the Presidents of the European Council, the European Commission, and the European Parliament, as well as the EU High Representative.

Their engagement was complemented by close and frequent interactions between EU and NATO senior officials across the board, notably NATO Deputy Secretary General and Assistant Secretaries General; European External Action Service (EEAS) Secretary General, Deputy Secretaries General and Managing Directors; European Commission Deputy Secretary General and Directors General; as well as EDA Chief Executive.

The participation of the EU High Representative and of the NATO Secretary General in both organisation's respective Foreign and Defence ministerial meetings underscored the shared resolve in supporting Ukraine. The EU High Representative participated for the first time in the NATO-Ukraine Council in the meetings of NATO Foreign Ministers in December 2024 and April 2025, as well as the NATO Defence Ministers in February 2025. Likewise, NATO Secretary General participated in the EU Foreign Affairs Council (Defence) in November 2024 and May 2025.

Following the publication of the EU White Paper on European Defence – Readiness 2030 (hereafter White Paper) and ReArm Europe Plan, the EU High Representative had an exchange - also for the first time - with NATO Foreign Ministers on European defence. Additionally, NATO Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General participated in the informal meetings of EU Defence Ministers respectively in August 2024 and April 2025. EEAS Deputy Secretary General took part in the meetings of NATO Defence Ministers in June 2024 and October 2024.

NATO Secretary General discussed NATO's priorities and EU-NATO cooperation related to European security and defence on several occasions: with the European Parliament and separately the College of Commissioners in January 2025; the EU leaders at their informal retreat and with EU Ambassadors at their annual Conference in February 2025. NATO's Deputy Secretary General and Assistant Secretary General addressed the EDA Annual Conference in January 2025, while in March NATO Deputy Secretary General engaged with the Committee on Security and Defence of the European Parliament.

The agreement on the new package of three Political Security Committee (PSC)-North Atlantic Council (NAC) meetings provided an opportunity for substantial consultations between NATO Allies and EU Member States on key geopolitical issues of shared concern. The first meeting took place on 28 May devoted to Ukraine.

To ensure maximum transparency on relevant European initiatives, the Commissioner for Defence and Space briefed the NAC twice on European defence and the White Paper, and the Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism on military mobility. In addition, the Commissioner for Energy participated in the annual meeting on energy security of the NAC in February 2025.

These efforts were complemented by the regular cross-participation of EU and NATO senior officials in respective meetings of Security Policy Directors and Defence Policy Directors, as well as at their cross-briefings to each organisation's committees and working groups, among others the PSC and the EDA Steering Board, as well as NATO's Deputy Permanent Representatives Committee and Conference of National Armaments Directors.

Since the signing of the Warsaw Joint Declaration more than 325 cross-briefings were held in various EU and NATO committees and working groups. In the reporting period, these covered a wide range of issues, such as resilience, artificial intelligence and quantum, partnerships, arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, defence production, military mobility, energy security, the Western Balkans, China and the Indo-Pacific as well as Central Asia. In addition, cross-briefings in the respective Military Committees covered cooperative security and crisis management, especially related to the Western Balkans and Africa, space cooperation, digital transformation, capability development and countering hybrid threats.

In addition to reciprocal briefings, the established practice of senior level informal meetings with the participation of non-EU NATO Allies and non-NATO EU Member States was continued.

Cooperation across all agreed areas between EU and NATO experts reached new heights, through the deepening of the established Structured Dialogues and the launch of two new ones on defence industry and cyber, as well as through the sectorial Staff Talks formats. The NATO-EU Steering Group continued to oversee all aspects of cooperation at staff level and ensure adequate follow-up to agreed initiatives, including through a higher frequency of its meetings.

Staffs continued to engage on issues related to Women, Peace and Security and shared lessons learnt and good practices. Senior officials' and staff-level engagements at various international events continued, e.g. the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations participated in the EU Annual Meeting of Civilian and Military Gender Advisors and Human Rights Advisors in June 2024; and the EEAS participated in the meeting of Allied Ambassadors and Special Envoys. Staffs also collaborated in drafting a Food for Thought Paper on the Protection of Civilians and Gender Perspectives.

Countering Hybrid and other common challenges

EU and NATO staffs stepped up their cooperation on countering hybrid threats, covering among others their respective strategies to counter hybrid threats and how best to ensure close coordination and coherence including with regard to their respective hybrid rapid reaction teams.

As such, the EU was represented for the first time at the annual NATO Hybrid Symposium, held in October 2024 in Prague. In November 2024, both staffs participated in the European

Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats (Hybrid CoE) fifth High-Level Retreat, which focused on countering attacks against critical infrastructure in the Euro-Atlantic region. The European Defence Agency (EDA), the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence CoE and the Hybrid CoE delivered jointly a new iteration of the course “The Contribution of Cyber in Hybrid Conflict”.

Engagement between the EU’s Single Intelligence Analysis Capacity (SIAC) and NATO’s Joint Intelligence and Security Division (JISD) continued on topics such as hybrid and cyber threats, the war against Ukraine, and terrorism, including cross-participation in conferences and workshops. In April 2025, the NATO Assistant Secretary General for JISD attended the SIAC Joint Heads of Services meeting in Brussels. SIAC’s EU Hybrid Fusion Cell participated in JISD’s Intelligence Production Unit Hybrid Conference in the first half of 2025. The Parallel and Coordinated Assessments (PACAs) between the SIAC and JISD, continued to foster mutual understanding of common threats and challenges. A PACA on threats of disruption to critical infrastructure was released in July 2024, with PACAs on cyber planned for June 2025 and on space later in the year.

Resilience

The level of ambition on resilience and preparedness across NATO and the EU further increased. New lines of effort contributed to strengthening the whole-of-government, whole-of-society and all-hazards approaches to resilience, through greater involvement of civil, military, public and private stakeholders as well as a more focused use of established staff cooperation formats. To further enhance the understanding of respective crisis management procedures, the European Commission and EEAS released to NATO staff the EU inventory of crisis management instruments.

The EU-NATO Structured Dialogue on Resilience delivered greater mutual awareness and practical cooperation, including through sector-specific expert consultations on crisis management, critical infrastructure protection, exercises and health preparedness.

In February 2025, experts on critical infrastructure discussed the interplay between the EU’s Critical Entities Resilience (CER) Directive and the Directive on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union (NIS2) with NATO’s resilience baseline requirements. On critical maritime infrastructure in particular, EU and NATO experts exchanged on respective initiatives namely on the EU Action Plan on Cable Security and the EU Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE), NATO’s critical undersea infrastructure network as well as the “Baltic Sentry” activity.

Staff exchanges allowed for the integration of lessons learnt from the NATO baseline requirements into the development of the EU’s Preparedness Union Strategy. Cooperation on health preparedness continued, building on the regular engagement of EU staff with the NATO Joint Health Group and focusing on the identification of and response to health-related chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats.

NATO and EU staffs continued their established practice of cross-invitations to high-level events, such as NATO’s 2024 Resilience Symposium in Bratislava as well as the February 2025 Informal NATO Resilience Policy Directors meeting in Brussels.

Regular interactions and cross-briefings to respective NATO and EU committees continued at pace, including on the Alliance’s efforts to enhance critical infrastructure resilience and

health preparedness; on its approach to resilience, including support to partner countries in integrating civilian and military planning; on the EU Preparedness Union Strategy; on energy security and health preparedness; and on food supply.

Strategic communications

EU and NATO staffs continued to develop robust cooperation on strategic communications by regularly sharing insights as well as coordinating and amplifying each other's public communication activities. Some examples include Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine, China's malign information activities, and developments in the Southern Neighbourhood.

To that end, staffs continued to use established mechanisms for information exchange, such as the Rapid Alert System (RAS) managed by the EEAS and the NATO Rapid Response Group, as well as reciprocal briefings and ad-hoc engagements.

EU staff took part in the 2024 NATO Senior Communicators Conference in November 2024 and in the NATO Rapid Response Group Conference in January 2025. The long-standing practice of EU staff participation in the annual NATO Information Environment Assessment Tiger Team meeting continued. Reciprocally, NATO participated in the EEAS Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference annual conference in March 2025.

EEAS and NATO staffs organised a working group to deepen cooperation on aligning taxonomies and information manipulation tactics, techniques and procedures and held a dedicated workshop in this regard with a number of respective members and selected partner countries.

Since the adoption of NATO Southern Neighbourhood Action Plan, NATO-EU collaboration on Southern Neighbourhood-related public diplomacy grew, including through the organisation of partner countries' visits to NATO HQ and to EU institutions.

EU and NATO staffs developed closer cooperation with the NATO Strategic Communications CoE and the Hybrid CoE through regular participation in the Global Info Ops Community of Interest workshop and other relevant events.

CBRN

NATO, including its Joint CBRN Defence CoE continued to cooperate with the EU on defence training and capacity-building activities, particularly regarding training for CBRN Consequence Management and mobile training for various aspects of emergency response. Cooperation between NATO and the EU CBRN CoE in various regions, including in the Middle East, was explored.

Counterterrorism

Close cooperation on counterterrorism (CT) continued apace. CT Staff Talks took place in July 2024, focusing on capacity building opportunities for enhanced cooperation in areas such as training of tactical police intervention units in Mauritania, digital forensics/battlefield evidence capacity building in Iraq, resilience of critical infrastructure in Bosnia and Herzegovina, CBRN and potentially Counter- Unmanned Aerial Systems (C-UAS) in Jordan.

Both organisations engaged in various CT-related capacity building activities – with regular cross-participation of experts. Fruitful exchanges took place for example on C-UAS in 2024.

Two informal seminars between the NATO Political Committee (PC) and the EU Working Party on Terrorism/International Aspects (COTER) were organised by the Presidencies of the Council of the EU with the participation of NATO and EU CT senior officials: in December 2024, by Hungary on capacity-building in Jordan, and in May 2025, by Poland on CT work with Western Balkans. In November 2024, the EU and Egypt, as co-chairs of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), engaged with NATO's PC on current priorities of the GCTF and future cooperation opportunities. NATO and EU staff also engaged on the margins of the Global Coalition to Defeat Da'esh Ministerial Meeting in Washington D.C, in September 2024.

Climate Change, Security and Defence

Following the first Structured Dialogue on Climate Change, Security and Defence in February 2024, NATO and EU staffs held a series of dedicated discussions focusing on: (i) analytical tools to support awareness and foresight; (ii) communicating the climate and security nexus; (iii) the energy transition and its implications for the defence sector; and (iv) education, training and exercises. Key findings informed the second plenary meeting of the Structured Dialogue, which took place in March 2025. As a result, staffs identified further areas for follow-up meetings. The first of these took place in May and focused on how to incorporate climate security considerations into exercises based on CMX25.

Additionally, in terms of cross-participation, EU staff took part in NATO's annual roundtable on climate change and security in January 2025, while NATO staff participated in a meeting of the European climate change and defence network in April 2025.

Cyber security and defence

Building on the well-established Staff consultations, the first meeting of the Structured Dialogue on Cyber was organised in October 2024. It focused on cross-participation in exercises, mutual updates on the EU Cyber Defence Coordination Centre and NATO's Integrated Cyber Defence Centre, as well as cyber crisis management including with regard to the proposed EU Cybersecurity Blueprint. To ensure consistency and explore further synergies between respective work strands, the NATO Cyber Defence Pledge questionnaire was released to the EEAS and European Commission, while the EU Cyber Census questionnaire was released to NATO staff.

On the operational side, staffs were in close contact during diplomatic responses to cyber incidents, including under the EU Cyber Diplomacy Toolbox, and coordinated statements condemning malicious cyber activities.

The Cybersecurity Service for the Union Institutions, Bodies, Offices and Agencies (CERT-EU) and the NATO Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) continued to exchange best practices, experiences and knowledge of tools, leveraging their Technical Arrangement on Cyber Defence cooperation. Overall coordination continued through regular meetings, thematic workshops, and cross-participation in cyber exercises, namely the 2024 NATO Cyber Coalition exercise, the 2024 Coalition Warrior Interoperability Exercise (CWIX) and the EU Cyber Diplomacy Toolbox Tabletop Exercise in November 2024.

EU staff participated in the NATO Cyber Defence Pledge conference in May 2025.

Defence capabilities

Efforts continued to ensure the coherence of output between the EU Capability Development Plan (CDP), the Headline Goal Process (HLGP) and the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) and respective NATO processes such as the NATO Defence Planning Process (NDPP) and the Partnership for Peace Planning and Review Process (PARP), where requirements overlap, while recognising the different nature of the two organisations and their respective responsibilities and memberships.

In this context, EU staff were invited by many Allies individually to attend bilateral and multilateral consultations in the framework of the NDPP. Moreover, regular contacts between senior officials and their participation in respective high-level meetings and regular staff contacts contributed to ensure mutual awareness of ongoing work of common interest in each organisation. This is particularly relevant in the context of respective EU and NATO initiatives addressing critical capability shortfalls and strengthening national defence capabilities. Under the single set of forces principle, capabilities developed by members of both organisations, including those developed multi-nationally, remain available in principle, for NATO and EU operations, subject to national political decisions.

Staff enhanced cooperation and coherence between their multinational capability development efforts while avoiding unnecessary duplication. Ammunition, particularly in the land and air domains, remained the main focus for both organisations, not only to increase Allies and Member States' stocks, but also to continue supporting Ukraine. In the land domain, cross participation in relevant EDA and NATO meetings took place to foster information exchange and complementarity, focusing on ground combat capabilities, artillery ammunitions, soldier systems, and land-based precision engagement. Furthermore, interactions continued on CBRN, C-UAS and counter-improvised explosive devices.

Staff consultations and dialogue continued on Military Aviation through regular dedicated meetings and reciprocal participation in the EDA Single European Sky (SES) Military Aviation Board and NATO Aviation Committee, as well as dedicated technical groups. EDA, EUROCONTROL and NATO staffs pursued their collaboration to safeguard military aviation needs and requirements in a European context.

Information exchanges between the NATO Airworthiness Advisory Group and the European Military Airworthiness Authority Forum were pursued through reciprocal attendance in meetings. Likewise, exchanges in the Air Traffic Management Communications Navigation and Surveillance (CNS) Advisory Group ensured understanding of CNS strategies to be implemented by both organisations and helped identify synergies and complementary actions in support of capability development.

Long-established cooperation and coordination continued on Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) air traffic integration and autonomy. Frequent meetings between EDA and NATO experts took place to ensure mutual awareness and the exchange of NATO's operational requirements and EU investment and research, as well as development projects, complemented by cross-participation in respective RPAS expert groups.

In the maritime domain, exchanges focused on unmanned maritime systems to promote convergent approaches. EDA experts attended the NATO Joint Capability Group Maritime Unmanned Systems meetings and NATO experts attended EDA workshops on unmanned maritime systems in the context of REPMUS 2024.

Standards

Standardisation remained a key area of cooperation to ensure interoperability and complementarity of efforts as well as the awareness of both EU Member States and NATO Allies, recognising the leading role of NATO in military standards through Standardisation Agreements (STANAGs). To support this effort, NATO Secretary General released a set of NATO unclassified STANAGs to the European Commission and the EEAS. Transparency and coordination were pursued through staff contacts, as well as regular cross-participation in the NATO Committee for Standardisation and the European Defence Standardisation Committee respectively. EDA and the European Commission supported Member States in the identification of standardisation requirements and promoted the use of these standards in the European Defence Fund, notably by referencing STANAGs as best-practice in the European Defence Standards Reference System (EDSTAR). Cooperation and exchange of information proved of substantial added value in particular in relation to cyber, where NATO staff's contribution resulted in new references to STANAGs being added to EDSTAR.

Space

EU and NATO exchanges on space further developed including through the two meetings for the Structured Dialogue on Space in September 2024 and March 2025, focusing on respective approaches on commercial space sector engagement, capability development, promoting responsible space behaviours, and education and training. This was complemented by cross briefings to respective committees, military staff-to-staff exchanges and cross-participation to respective events, namely of NATO in EDA working groups on satellite communications and radio spectrum, the EDA Defence in Space Forum, and of Allied Command Transformation (ACT) to an EDA Captech Space industry workshop.

Military mobility

Military mobility continued to be a flagship project. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has demonstrated the importance of rapid and unhindered movement of military forces, along with their equipment and supplies. Both organisations acknowledge the importance of strengthening infrastructure and addressing procedural and regulatory impediments to military movement. The Structured Dialogue on Military Mobility continued to serve as an effective tool for focused discussions on shared priorities and respective work strands, such as military requirements, transport infrastructure, transport of dangerous goods, simplification of customs procedures and cross-border movement permissions, engagement in exercises, and host-nation support.

Throughout the year, NATO and EU staff exchanged on issues of common interest related to energy security, namely on ensuring adequate energy supplies to military forces, the impact of the energy transition on military mobility, and the security of critical energy infrastructure.

In addition to the Structured Dialogue, staffs intensified consultations on priority military corridors to ensure that military requirements are adequately taken into account. The European Commission, EUMS and NATO staffs identified fuel logistics as an important area for future cooperation.

Staffs participated in respective Military Mobility-related events, such as the Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU conference in March 2025 and NATO's Joint Support Enabling Command (JSEC) conference in November, briefed the EU Politico-Military Group (PMG), and attended the Management Committee meetings for the EDA programme on Harmonising Military Requirements Related to Customs.

Defence industry, innovation and research

Staffs continued consultations on wider defence industry matters and concrete topics related to industry engagement and support, to ensure mutual awareness and sharing of best practices. In September 2024, the first Structured Dialogue on Defence Industry took place, with a second meeting in March 2025, focusing on the White Paper and the ReArm Europe Plan, the NATO Industrial Capacity Expansion Pledge and the updated Defence Production Action Plan. Staffs discussed matters related to defence industrial capacity, aggregation of demand, supply chain security, standardisation, including opportunities for the EU to promote NATO STANAGs, and provide support to Ukraine's defence industrial base.

Staff consultations on supply chain security intensified, covering among others stockpiling, recycling, and substituting critical raw materials, as well as addressing challenges related to bottlenecks in the supply chains.

On industry engagement, staffs continued cross-attendance in respective defence industry-related events, including the 2024 NATO Summit Defence Industry Forum, and the EU-hosted Defence Night in Washington D.C., as well as in the 2nd EU-Ukraine Defence Industry Forum and European Defence Innovation Days in Krakow, in May 2025.

Staff engagements between NATO and the European Investment Bank focused on facilitating defence industrial access to finance. The European Investment Bank Vice-President addressed the NATO Industrial Advisory Group and the Assistant Secretary General for Defence Investment attended the European Investment Bank's Annual Group Forum.

In December 2024, EDA Chief Executive, NSPA General Manager and OCCAR Director met to discuss their respective organisations' priorities, addressing possibilities to cooperate as well as identifying challenges to that effect.

Emerging and disruptive technologies

Staff contacts continued to ensure mutual awareness, identify synergies and exchange practices on respective initiatives related to emerging and disruptive technologies (EDTs) and defence innovation.

In March 2024, the European Investment Fund and the NATO Innovation Fund signed a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate in supporting a cohesive approach to strengthening the investment ecosystem for defence, security and resilience.

The second Structured Dialogue on EDTs took place in December 2024, underlining the need of ensuring coherence between two organisations' shared priorities with a particular focus on NATO's Rapid Adoption Action Plan, the Defence Innovation Accelerator for the North Atlantic (DIANA), NATO Innovation Fund, the EU Defence Innovation Scheme, the Hub for EU Defence Innovation (HEDI), the European Innovation Council and the EU Observatory for Critical Technologies. Considerations related to defence and dual use applications of artificial intelligence, quantum and biotech were discussed. Attention was devoted to the shared challenge in terms of financing and investment, as well as technology testing, validation, and innovation standards.

Research

EU staff and the NATO Science and Technology Organization (STO) continued to discuss science and technology areas of mutual interest, such as emerging and disruptive (technological) challenges, technology trends forecasting, research security, climate change, energy security, natural resources, artificial intelligence and its responsible use.

Staffs supporting EDA Capability Technology Groups and NATO working groups, including those in ACT, exchanged views on topics such as artificial intelligence, space, energy, and climate change. STO and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) engaged on technology foresight, with the STO participating in JRC's technology foresight working group and NATO experts contributing to a related JRC report. STO's Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation continued its participation in several maritime research projects supported by the Commission such as PROMENADE.

Operational cooperation including maritime security

Staff Talks on operational cooperation and the practice of reciprocal cross-briefings in NATO and EU committees continued on a regular basis.

Dialogue between military staffs was also pursued, including through cross-briefings in NATO and EU Military Committees, cross-participation in each organisation's Chiefs of Defence (CHODs) meetings and the bi-annual NATO and EU Military Staff Directors' General conferences.

The annual EU-NATO staff talks on maritime security were held in April 2025. In this context, the staffs exchanged on respective naval operations and activities (IRINI, ASPIDES, ATALANTA as well as NATO's Standing Naval Forces, Sea Guardian, the Aegean Activity and the Vigilance Activity Baltic Sentry), EU's Coordinated Maritime Presences, exercises (MARSEC 24 and forthcoming MARSEC 25), potential cooperation between NATO and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), security of critical maritime/undersea infrastructure (CMI/CUI), maritime security in the Black Sea as well as respective approaches to the "shadow fleet".

Concerning other key events, in June 2024, the EEAS participated in the 15th Anniversary Annual Conference of the NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Centre in

Greece. Furthermore, together with the Portuguese Navy, NATO and the EDA co-organised, with EEAS and European Commission participation, the 14th edition of the Robotic Experimentation and Prototyping Maritime Unmanned Systems (REPMUS) Exercise, which took place in September 2024 in Portugal.

EUNAVFOR MED Operation–IRINI and NATO MARCOM continued their cooperation including through the Shared Awareness and De-confliction in the Mediterranean (SHADE MED) mechanism by co-organising the 13th edition (5th joint) of the annual SHADE MED Conference, which took place in December 2024 under the theme “*Future Challenges in the Mediterranean.*”

Furthermore, during NATO Exercise DYNAMIC MANTA 24, informal exchanges of flight information took place to ensure flight safety within the Area of Operations (AOO) of the exercise, overlapping with IRINI's AOO.

NATO's activity in the Aegean Sea, assisting Greece and Türkiye, and FRONTEX continued to counter irregular migration.

Exercises

Cooperation between NATO and the EU staffs contributed to increasing awareness of the resilience, preparedness and crisis management efforts of both organisations and their respective memberships.

Staffs continued the implementation of the Parallel and Coordinated Exercises (PACE) concept, in line with the PACE Plan for 2024-2025, engaging in the preparations and the conduct of the EU Integrated Resolve Exercise 2024 (EU IR24) and NATO's Crisis Management Exercise 2025 (CMX25). This contributed to advancing both staffs' understanding of respective procedures in response to a hybrid exercise scenario.

As part of PACE, senior officials from both organisations participated and briefed on the potential responses of each organisation to crisis scenarios, with NATO joining the Integrated Political Crisis Response Roundtable (IPCR) during EU IR24, and the European Commission, together with EEAS and the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU, attended the NAC during CMX25.

The EUMS and NATO International Military Staff (NATO IMS) held two staff-level workshops on exercises, in the context of EU IR24 and CMX25. In addition, in December 2024, the EU staff participated in a NATO Tabletop Exercise with a focus on hybrid threats.

Regarding NATO military exercises, the European Commission participated in STEADFAST DUEL 2024 and, together with EUMS, in STEADFAST DETERRENCE and STEADFAST DAGGER 2024. The EU staffs were invited to participate in the 2025 iteration of STEADFAST DUEL, STEADFAST DETERRENCE and STEADFAST DAGGER, respectively.

Training

Staffs continued coordination in military education and training line of efforts. In 2025, the NAC approved the participation of EUMS and the Military Planning and Conduct Capability

(MPCC) staff in NATO School Oberammergau (NSO) courses. EEAS, the European Commission, EDA, and the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) provided speakers for NSO as well as NATO Defence College courses.

Defence and security capacity building

Regular staff consultations and cross-briefings continued both in Brussels and on the ground, serving as a valuable platform for exchanging views and sharing information on the political and security situation and assistance measures in eight partner countries - Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Georgia, Jordan, Iraq, Mauritania the Republic of Moldova (hereafter Moldova), Tunisia, and Ukraine.

In 2024, NATO, the EU and their respective members continued to provide substantial political, military, financial and humanitarian support to Ukraine. The EU-NATO Coordination on Ukraine remains an essential platform for regular updates on respective lines of support and synergies in areas such as military support, strategic communications, countering hybrid threats, cyber security and defence, sanctions, energy security, civil protection, CBRN, critical infrastructure, reforms, capacity building and demining. Through the NATO Security Assistance and Training for Ukraine (NSATU), NATO assumed responsibility for the coordination of security assistance and training for Ukraine, in close cooperation with the EU Military Assistance Mission (EUMAM), the main training provider for the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Staffs continued regular exchanges on the respective assistance provided to Ukraine, including through the EU's European Peace Facility (EPF) and NATO's Comprehensive Assistance Package (CAP). The EU Delegation in Kyiv and the NATO Representation to Ukraine, as well as EUMAM and the EU Advisory Mission for Civilian Security Sector Reform to Ukraine (EUAM), continued to cooperate closely within the International Advisory Group in support of Ukraine's security and defence sector reforms.

Ad hoc high-level security roundtables took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Regular international community meetings facilitated the discussion of political and security developments and helped coordinate activities on cybersecurity. NATO participated in a workshop in the framework of the EU regional project on critical infrastructure protection in the Western Balkans in September 2024. The EU staffs participated in the Annual NATO Partnerships 360 Symposium in Sarajevo in October 2024.

Regular engagement at all levels and cross-briefings continued regarding the broader Western Balkans region. Representatives of the EU and of its Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) briefed the NAC during its visit to the Kosovo Force (KFOR) in March. Close coordination along with unified strategic messaging between KFOR and EULEX at the strategic level and on the ground, remained critical for reducing tensions between Belgrade and Pristina.

Regarding Moldova, NATO and EU staffs in Brussels and Chisinau regularly exchanged views on the political situation and on resilience, hybrid threats, and the coordination of delivery of training and essential equipment. Staffs also took part in workshops and Tabletop Exercises aimed at countering hybrid threats.

Staffs maintained regular engagement with regard to Georgia, both in Brussels and Tbilisi, focusing on political developments and practical cooperation, in relation to EU Security,

Accountability and Fight against Crime in Georgia programme, the EPF, and the Substantial NATO-Georgia Package.

NATO and EU staffs took steps to strengthen dialogue on the Southern Neighbourhood and continued to exchange information and identify opportunities for cooperation in areas of common interest, including in defence capacity building. Senior official consultations and staff exchanges were held regularly, including between NATO's Secretary General's Special Representative (SGSR) for the Southern Neighborhood and the EU Special Representatives for the Sahel, the Gulf, the Middle East Peace Process, and the Horn of Africa. Reciprocal cross-briefings in committees and cross-participation in events took place.

Coordination between NATO Mission Iraq (NMI) and the EU Advisory Mission (EUAM) in Iraq remained robust, including through engagement in international coordination platforms. Regular expert-level talks on the political developments and planned new programs and initiatives in Tunisia took place in Brussels. In Mauritania, exchanges focused on the political and security situation in the country and the wider Sahel region as well as opportunities for common projects, including through the NATO DCB package. In November 2024, the EU participated in a workshop on C-UAS capabilities in Amman organised by NATO and the Jordanian Armed Forces, and in February 2025, a NATO senior official attended the kick-off meeting of the EU CBRN CoE Project on strengthening CBRN forensics capabilities in the Middle East.

EU staffs participated in the NATO DCB Point of Contacts meeting hosted in November 2024 in Brussels.

At the annual Capacity Building Staff Talks held in May 2025, it was agreed to continue and increase direct exchanges at the level of Headquarters and between NATO Liaison Offices and EU Delegations on issues of mutual interest, including in the context of EPF assistance and DCB efforts. Staffs also agreed to increase cross-briefings, as well as to explore options for coordination between future training activities on topics of mutual interest, where possible. Enhanced coordination in key areas was agreed including: strategic communications and countering hostile information and disinformation for BiH and Jordan; CT capacity building in Jordan, BiH and Tunisia; good governance support in Jordan and Tunisia, as well as border security, CBRN training and Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in Jordan; maritime security and capacity building measures in Mauritania.

EU and NATO staffs reaffirm their resolve to take the EU-NATO cooperation forward in a pragmatic, fully coordinated and coherent way with a view to delivering further tangible outputs across the entire spectrum of our cooperation agenda, which continues to grow in breadth and depth, in response to shared security threats and challenges.