

## Enhancing European Security and Defence Cooperation

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party convening in Amsterdam, the Netherlands on 1 to 3 December 2017:

### Taking note of:

- the increase in public support for greater European engagement in matters of security and defence;
- the deterioration of the wider European security environment, which has become more fluid, more complex, more dangerous, and less predictable;
- the need to strengthen, in particular, capabilities in the field of cyber security and hybrid threats given recent attacks by state and non-state actors alike;
- the fact that concrete security and defence cooperation can be achieved in many other forms than an EU army;
- the EU Commission's conclusion that the "lack of cooperation between Member States in the field of defence and security is estimated to cost annually between € 25 billion and € 100 billion";
- the EU Commission's conclusion that "around 80% of defence procurement is run on a purely national basis, leading to a costly duplication of military capabilities";
- the Joint EU-NATO Declaration of 8 July 2016, which calls for enhanced EU-NATO cooperation and coordination on, among others, hybrid threats, cyber security and defence, migration and a strong defence industry and research;
- the remarks by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg's remarks that "[t]here is no contradiction between strong European defence and strong NATO, actually it reinforces each other," and that "cooperation is now the norm, not the exception";
- the introduction of the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) and the European Defence Fund (EDF) that are both aimed at coordinating defence spending, improving cooperation and fostering the research and development of defence capabilities;
- the resolution 'EU - NATO defence cooperation' adopted at the 2016 ALDE Party Congress in Warsaw, Poland.

### Believes that:

- the EU Member States and the EU as a whole must assume greater responsibility for their security;
- enhanced security and defence cooperation in Europe to increase the defence capabilities should be a priority, especially taking into

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consideration the national budgetary constraints and mounting international geopolitical threats, not least in our neighbouring areas;

- the diversification of such threats, both conventional and hybrid, affects European states differently yet results in an overall deterioration of European security;
- EU Member States must have a margin of manoeuvre within the Common Foreign and Security Policy framework, since each Member State has the power to decide whether to act within this common framework;
- in an increasingly multipolar world, the sovereignty and security of each EU Member State is strengthened by increased integration and cooperation;
- EU Member States should focus on increased cooperation such as pooling and sharing resources to increase the European defence capability with the long-term goal being the creation of a common European army;
- the transatlantic link is of utmost importance to European security, and that successful European cooperation in the area of security and defence, as a complement to NATO, requires a long-term perspective;
- in the light of the UK's decision to withdraw from the EU, both the EU27 and UK have a continued interest in keeping the UK involved in EU military decision-making and intelligence sharing. As one way of doing so, the UK might be encouraged to seek observer status in the CFSP and CDSP.

#### **Calls for:**

- the EU to confidently and ambitiously move forward towards a well-functioning and stronger Common Security and Defence Policy;
- the EU to realise the establishment and implementation of the European Defence Union;
- such a strengthened common policy to more robustly address non-conventional threats such as cyber security and disinformation campaigns;
- the use of EU funds to allow all Member States to improve their military capabilities in coordinated way, for example by facilitating research and development in the defence area;
- EU Member States to also invest in their own security and defence, and improve their own military capabilities in a coordinated manner;
- European Member States to as soon as possible move towards the creation of a "Defence Union" subject to parliamentary control, including joint defence procurement as one of the first steps;
- EU Member States to take advantage of the potential of joint military procurement to cut costs and increase operational efficiency and interoperability;

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- the autonomy of Member States with respect to a common European Security and Defence policy to be respected;
- Member States to aim for the target of 2% of GDP for defence spending;
- both EU and NATO Member States to complement each other as NATO remains the backbone of military cooperation and guarantor of collective defence for Europe and collective security for Europe;
- EU Member States to further develop comprehensive, realistic and credible defence capabilities, developing further the interoperability of, and specialisations in, military equipment and defence capabilities, in cooperation with NATO;
- avoiding double structures between the EU and NATO;
- the EU and its Member States to further develop and, when needed, be ready to use civilian and military rapid response capabilities;
- an EU that is ready to address a variety of threats and risks such as military, non-military, cyber, disinformation and terrorism;
- strengthened coordination between Member States to facilitate the rapid movement of defence forces, personnel, equipment and supplies;
- the EU Member States to put into practice the Permanent Structured Cooperation on Security and Defence (PESCO), in which participation is voluntary and decision-making is controlled by participating Member States, since this mechanism will fundamentally strengthen and deepen EU defence cooperation.

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