

1) -1 About CSDP - Overview

The idea of a common defense policy for Europe dates back to 1948 when the UK, France, and the Benelux signed the Treaty of Brussels. The agreement included a mutual defense clause laying down the foundations for the creation of the [Western European Union](#) (WEU), which remained until the late 1990s, together with NATO, the principal forum for consultation and dialogue on security and defense in Europe.

Following the end of the Cold War and the subsequent conflicts in the Balkans, it became clear that the EU needed to assume its responsibilities in the field of conflict prevention and crisis management. The conditions under which military units could be deployed were already agreed by the WEU Council in 1992 but the so-called "[Petersburg Tasks](#)" were now integrated in the 1999 [Treaty of Amsterdam](#). In addition, the post of the "High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy" was created to allow the Union to speak with 'one face and one voice' on foreign policy matters.

At the [Cologne European Council](#) in 1999, Member States reaffirmed the Union's willingness to develop capabilities for autonomous action, backed up by credible military forces. A key development was the "[Berlin Plus agreement](#)" giving the EU, under certain conditions, access to NATO assets and capabilities. In 2003 the former High Representative Javier Solana was tasked by the Member States to develop a [Security Strategy for Europe](#). The document entitled 'A Secure Europe in a Better World', analyzed for the first time the EU's security environment and identified key security challenges and subsequent political implications for the EU. The implementation of the document was revised in 2008.

The [Lisbon Treaty](#) came into force in December 2009 and was a cornerstone in the development of the Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP). The treaty includes both a mutual assistance and a solidarity clause and allowed for the creation of the European External Action Service (EEAS) under the authority of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission (HR/VP), Catherine Ashton. The two distinct functions of the newly created post give the HR/VP the possibility to bring all the necessary EU assets together and to apply a "comprehensive approach" to EU crisis management.

Since the creation in March 2002 of the European Union Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina by Council Joint Action, some 30 civilian and military missions and operations have been launched under the CSDP. The EU is constantly improving its crisis management capabilities. Headline Goals, both [civilian](#) as well as [military](#), have been defined and adapted to match the changing security environment.

The CSDP will be on the agenda again at the December 2013 European Council meeting when the heads of states will discuss how to enhance defense

capabilities, strengthen the defense industry and improve the effectiveness, visibility and impact of the CSDP.

2) 2- About CSDP - European Security Strategy

The European Security Strategy (ESS), adopted by the European Council on 12-13 December 2003, provides the conceptual framework for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), including what would later become the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). The split between EU Member States over the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 highlighted the need for a common strategic vision to enhance internal cohesion at EU level. Member states thus tasked the then High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, to draft such a strategy.

Titled '*A Secure Europe in a Better World*', the ESS is a brief but comprehensive document which analyses and defines for the first time the EU's security environment, identifying key security challenges and subsequent political implications for the EU.

In this framework, the ESS singles out five key threats:

- Terrorism
- Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD)
- Regional conflicts
- State failure
- Organised crime.

The ESS also calls for preventive engagement to avoid new conflicts/crises. Building security in the EU's neighbourhood (Balkans, Southern Caucasus, and the Mediterranean) is prioritised as is the goal of strengthening the international rules-based order through effective multilateralism. Furthermore, the ESS explicitly acknowledges the interdependence of various global security challenges, i.a. by linking security and development issues and highlighting the possible interplay between key threats.

Finally, the ESS addresses the political implications of the new security environment. It states that the EU needs to be more active, more coherent and more capable. The importance of international cooperation and EU partnerships is also emphasised by claiming that none of the threats can be tackled by the Union alone. The conclusion reaffirms that these challenges also pose opportunities for the EU to become more active and more capable in the pursuit of a safer, more unified world.

Four years after the adoption of the ESS, Member States tasked the High Representative at the December 2007 European Council 'to examine the implementation of the Strategy with a view to proposing elements on how to

improve the implementation and, as appropriate, elements to complement it'. The resulting document, the 2008 *'Report of the Implementation of the European Security Strategy: Providing Security in a Changing World'*, effectively confirmed the enduring validity of the 2003 ESS and the need to be 'more capable, more coherent and more active' in order for the EU to reach its full potential.

3- Civilian crisis management

The Union has decided to develop **the civilian aspects of crisis management** in four priority areas defined by the Feira European Council in June 2000: police, strengthening of the rule of law, strengthening civilian administration and civil protection.

The specific capabilities in these four fields could be used in the context of EU-led autonomous missions, or in the context of operations conducted by leadagencies, such as the UN or the OSCE (Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe).

Police

The European Union aims to be capable of carrying out any police operation, from advisory, assistance and training tasks to substituting to local police forces. Member States have undertaken to provide up to 5000 police officers by 2003, of whom up to 1 400 can be deployed in under 30 days.

Strengthening the rule of law

Efforts deployed on an international scale to reinforce and if necessary restore credible local police forces can only be successful if a properly functioning judicial and penitentiary system backs up the police forces. Member States have undertaken to provide nearly 300 officers in charge of crisis management operations in that area(prosecutors, judges, prison officers).

Civil administration

As regards civil administration, a pool of experts has been created, capable of accepting civil administration missions in the context of crisis-management operations, and if necessary, being deployed at very short notice.

Civil protection

In this area too, the objective has been achieved, and consists of:

- 2 or 3 assessment and/or coordination teams, capable of being mobilised around the clock, and consisting of 10 experts, who could be dispatched within 3 to 7 hours;
- intervention teams of up to 2000 persons for deployment at short notice;
- additional or more specialised means which could be dispatched within 2 to 7 days depending on the particular needs of each crisis.

The Ministerial Civilian Crisis Management Capability Conference held on 19 November 2002 confirmed that the concrete targets in the four priority areas had

been reached and even exceeded through Member States' voluntary commitments.