



Brussels, January 2015

Expectations for the Defence Summit

The next European Council dedicated to defence should take place in June 2015 and give new impetus to the work started in December 2013. The latest terrorist attacks in France and the numerous crisis and conflicts in our neighbourhood, from Sahel to the Middle East and Eastern Ukraine, have deeply modified our security environment compared to the picture set out in the 2003 EU security strategy. The European Council should back the proposal made by Federica Mogherini to launch the work on **a new "Foreign Affairs and Security Strategy"** which can only be useful if it defines clear European interests and priorities regarding both external relations and the security and defence dimension.

The current security landscape is a clear wake-up call for more cooperation in the military as well as in the civilian security sector. European leaders should refrain from taking political commitments they will never adhere to. What we need is **more coordination in capability planning and better spending** through joint procurement, common certification, training, maintenance and upgrading. The EU needs more efficient proceedings for crisis management. This can only be achieved through the simplification of the decision process for the planning of operations, the creation of a permanent EU command capability, and greater funding flexibility. To this end, a first step should be to adopt the Athena mechanism review.

Due to the long lasting reluctance of member states to cooperate and renewed competition among institutions, there has been almost no progress on the main topics identified in December 2013: satellite communications, remotely piloted aircraft systems, air-to-air refuelling, and cyber security. We expect support from European heads of state and/or government for the roadmap adopted by the European Commission in June 2014, the preparatory action on CSDP-related research, and the pooling and sharing projects developed by the European Defence Agency, as well as stronger coordination between internal and external security, more intelligence sharing, the strengthening of Frontex, and the development of **a more efficient internal market for defence**.

discussed: Working Group Space, Security & Defence - 20/01/2015, Brussels

published: Agence Europe - 25/01/2015