

## EU - NATO defence cooperation

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party convening in Warsaw, Poland on 1 to 3 December 2016:

### Having regard to:

- the ALDE Party Leaders meeting at the fringe of the NATO Summit in Warsaw on 8 July 2016;
- the Warsaw Summit Communiqué issued by Heads of States and governments participating at the NATO Summit on 8-9 July 2016;
- the EU Global Strategy issued by the EU High Representative on 28 June 2016;
- the Joint declaration by the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission, and the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization signed in Warsaw on 8 July 2016;
- the resolution ‘Securing the Peace in Europe, strengthening Europe’s Foreign and Security Policy’ adopted at the 2014 ALDE Party Congress in Lisbon, Portugal.

### Considers that:

- institutionalised relations between NATO and the EU were launched in 2001;
- in 2003, the so-called “Berlin Plus” arrangements set the basis for the Alliance to support EU-led operations in which NATO as a whole is not engaged;
- NATO and the EU currently have 22 member countries in common;
- at the 2010 Lisbon NATO Summit, the Allies underlined their determination to improve the NATO-EU strategic partnership and the 2010 Strategic Concept committed the Alliance to work more closely with other international organisations to prevent crises, manage conflicts and stabilise post-conflict situations;
- close cooperation between NATO and the EU is an important element in the development of an international “comprehensive approach” to crisis management and operations, which requires the effective application of both military and civilian means;
- strengthening the resilience of the EU is a joint responsibility;
- new threats and challenges to security, such as hybrid and cyber warfare as well as terrorism, cannot be tackled by either the EU or NATO independently.

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## Notes:

- the distinct sovereign defence policies of EU and NATO Member States;
- that the EU defence policy efforts will be NATO compatible and the European Defence Union will enable a stronger NATO;
- the right of non-NATO EU members to exercise their own particular defence policies;
- the decision-making autonomy and different procedures in both EU and NATO;
- whilst working collectively as a bloc to promote and enhance peace and security;
- the importance of the friendly cooperation and participation given to peace-keeping by non-NATO member countries;
- that the EU and the transatlantic alliance NATO are facing new and increased security challenges;
- military cooperation between Member States is taking place already. Both bilaterally (Dutch-German division Fast Forces), and multilaterally within a NATO context (Baltic Air Policing mission, Admiral Benelux and the Benelux Airdefence Pact) and within a European context (procurement coordination through the EDA);
- that enhanced defence cooperation in Europe should be a priority, especially taking into consideration the national budgetary constraints and mounting international geopolitical threats;
- EU member states need to financially invest into building a common European Defence Union;
- that more should be done to increase cooperation and interoperability of defence capabilities within NATO by EU Member States, leading to a stronger and self-sufficient European pillar of NATO;
- a renewed Franco-German initiative to increase EU military cooperation;
- the distinct difference between enhanced defence cooperation and the idea of an EU army;
- the shared strategic interests between NATO and the EU and their cooperation on issues of common interest, crisis management, capability development and political consultations;
- the possibility of Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) enshrined in the Treaty on the European Union (TEU);
- the renewed strategic partnership between NATO and the EU in areas of countering hybrid threats, cooperation in the sea, cyber security, coherence of defence capacities, building resilience of partners and joint exercises.

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## Welcomes:

- the Readiness Action Plan assurance measures and the Adaption measures of the Readiness Action Plan as included in the NATO Warsaw Summit communiqué of 8 July 2016;
- the remarks made by NATO Secretary Jens Stoltenberg that “[t]here is no contradiction between strong European defence and strong NATO, actually it reinforces each other”;
- 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;
- new EU initiatives in the field of security and defence such as EU Implementation plan on Security and Defence, Implementation of EU-NATO Joint declaration and European Defence Action plan.

## Calls for:

- the distinct sovereign defence policies of non-NATO EU members to be respected and upheld;
- the autonomy of countries in respect of a common European defence policy to be respected;
- realism and practicability in the debate over military cooperation in Europe and therefore push for the concept of pooling and sharing of military resources;
- the EU to deepen cooperation with NATO in complementarity, synergy and in full respect for the institutional framework, inclusiveness and decision making autonomy of the two;
- 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;
- efficient and coherent use of specific capacities of each organisation for countering new and emerging threats to security, such as hybrid and cyber threats;
- EU Member States to further develop comprehensive, realistic and credible defence capabilities and interoperability by encouraging interoperability of military equipment and defence capabilities but avoiding double structures between EU and NATO;
- an EU wide system for the coordination of rapid movement of defence forces, personnel, equipment and supplies to establish a swift movement of EU troops across the EU space when necessary;
- the launch of initial EU-NATO projects on countering hybrid threats, on operational cooperation including at sea, and on migration, on cyber security and defence, on defence capabilities, on strengthening the

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defence technological and industrial base, on exercises, and on building the defence and security capacity of our partners in the East and South;

- progressive framing of the European Defence Union with a view to its establishment under the next multiannual political and financial framework of the EU;
- the European Council to give the European Defence Agency a larger mandate to coordinate cooperation between EU military;
- NATO and EU Member States to sustain the reversal of declining defence budgets and to aim to move towards the 2% guideline but also take into account direct contributions to NATO missions;
- that it is essential that the restrictions in Article 24(1) TEU on the authority of the European Court of Justice in the field of CFSP be removed; calls, in the same spirit, for Parliament to gain greater powers of scrutiny and accountability over CFSP, including full co-decision powers over the budget.

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