SEDE
FACT SHEET

MEP BSR – Copenhagen 2024

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Committee on Security and Defence (SEDE)

The question of security and defence challenges in the Baltic Sea region

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Introduction

Dear delegates,

Dear delegates, this fact sheet will share some of the most crucial facts and information about the committee issue, including both theoretical concepts and visual data. The goal is to help you understand the main problem and the efforts made to solve it. We hope all delegates will use this fact sheet to prepare, leading to a more informed and engaging discussion on all resolutions during the General Assembly.

In recent years, the world has been going through several crises related to peace and security, most eminently – Russia's unprovoked attacks in Ukraine. This highlighted the need for domestic and global security, as well as for a cohesive response to such actions, especially from the European Union. The committee's responsibility is to devise ways and policies to make the EU a leading peacekeeping power. More specifically, the SEDE committee will focus on how the Baltic Sea Region member states can be brought together, enhance domestic and international infrastructure, cyber security, illegal immigration and maritime security, therefore, eventually make the EU acquire a dominant role in peacekeeping around the globe. This fact-file will enable you to get an overview of the security situation in the Baltic Sea region.

We encourage you to research the provided links and sources, while also exploring on your own by perhaps creating your own personal fact sheet, to make sure you're informed on the topic once in Copenhagen.

MAIN STAKEHOLDERS:

The European Union: Under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), the EU takes a leading role in peacekeeping operations, conflict prevention and the strengthening of international security. It is an integral part of the EU's comprehensive approach towards crisis management, drawing on civilian and military assets.

Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO): PESCO is a Treaty-based framework and process to deepen defence cooperation amongst EU Member States who are capable and willing to do so. The aim is to jointly develop defence capabilities and make them available for EU military operations. This

will enhance the EU's capacity as an international security actor, contribute to the protection of EU citizens and maximise the effectiveness of defence spending.

European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations: Whenever there is a disaster or humanitarian emergency, the EU provides assistance for the affected countries and populations. In line with the four principles grounded in International Humanitarian Law, EU humanitarian aid: addresses human suffering, with particular attention to the most vulnerable groups of people, while respecting the dignity of all victims (humanity); does not favour any side in a conflict (neutrality); is provided solely on the basis of needs, without any kind of discrimination (impartiality); is independent of any agenda, be it political, economic, military or else (independence).

United Nations (UN): The United Nations was created in 1945, following the devastation of the Second World War, with one central mission: the maintenance of international peace and security. The UN accomplishes this by working to prevent conflict, helping parties in conflict make peace, deploying peacekeepers, and creating the conditions to allow peace to hold and flourish. These activities often overlap and should reinforce one another, to be effective. The UN Security Council has the primary responsibility for international peace and security. The General Assembly and the Secretary-General play major, important, and complementary roles, along with other UN offices and bodies.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO): NATO is an active and leading contributor to peace and security on the international stage. Through its crisis management operations, the Alliance demonstrates both its willingness to act as a positive force for change and its capacity to meet the security challenges of the 21st century.

KEY TERMS:

Peacekeeping: refers to the deployment of national or, more commonly, multinational forces for the purpose of helping to control and resolve an actual or potential armed conflict between or within states.

Soft Power: refers to the ability to achieve goals by attraction through political, moral, or cultural influence; and, at times, by subtle economic means.

Hard Power: the use of military and economic means to influence the behavior or interests of other political bodies.

Humanitarian Crisis: defined as a singular event or a series of events that are threatening in terms of health, safety, or well-being of a community or large group of people. It may be an internal or external conflict and usually occurs throughout a large land area.

European Foreign and Security Policy: The EU's joint Foreign and Security Policy, designed to resolve conflicts and foster international understanding, is based on diplomacy and respect for international rules. Trade, humanitarian aid, and development cooperation also play an important role in the EU's international role. EU foreign and security policy seeks to: preserve peace, strengthen international security, promote international cooperation, develop and consolidate democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights & fundamental freedoms.

Common Security and Defence Policy: The Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) enables the Union to take a leading role in peace-keeping operations, conflict prevention, and in the strengthening of international security. It is an integral part of the EU's comprehensive approach towards crisis management, drawing on civilian and military assets.

War crimes: Violations of international humanitarian law (treaty or customary law) that incur individual criminal responsibility under international law. As a result, and in contrast to the crimes of genocide and crimes against humanity, war crimes must always take place in the context of an armed conflict, either international or non-international.

Cyber security:

MARCH 2024
#EUDefence
#StrategicCompass

CYBER DIPLOMACY AND CYBER DEFENCE: EU EXTERNAL ACTION

The Strategic Compass provides further guidance on strengthening the EU's ability to prevent, deter and respond to cyberattacks. The EU is determined to promote and protect a global, open, stable and secure cyberspace for everyone to have a safe digital life. Increased cybersecurity is essential for the EU to become a resilient, green and digital Union.

Cyber threats are evolving very fast, with technologies being increasingly misused for:

- **Interference in democratic processes and elections**
- **Attacks against critical infrastructure**
- **Cyber espionage & intellectual property theft**
- **Ransomware as a business model for cyber criminals**
- **Censoring, observing and repressing citizens**

The EU stands for a global, open, stable and secure cyberspace based on:

- **GLOBAL CYBER RESILIENCE**
- **CONFLICT PREVENTION AND RULES BASED ORDER**
- **PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS**
- **COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS**

EU CYBERSECURITY STRATEGY

The EU Cybersecurity Strategy will increase resilience, technological sovereignty and EU leadership; build operational capacity to counter malicious cyber activities; and promote cooperation for a global and open cyberspace.

The EU Cybersecurity Strategy covers 4 external policy areas:

LEADERSHIP ON INTERNATIONAL NORMS AND STANDARDS	PREVENTING, DETERRING AND RESPONDING TO CYBER-ATTACKS	PARTNERSHIPS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	EXTERNAL CYBER CAPACITY BUILDING
• Contribute to the establishment a UN Programme of Action to Advance **Responsible State Behaviour** in Cyberspace; • Diplomatic outreach & multilateral cooperation (e.g. United Nations); • Confidence-building measures (e.g. OSCE, ASEAN Regional Forum).	• Implementing the **EU Cyber Defence Policy** to be better prepared for, defend against and respond to cyberattacks; • Establish an **EU Cyber Defence Coordination Centre** to enhance situational awareness and coordinated response to cyber-attacks incl. through **Cyber Rapid Response Teams**; • Sustained use of the **Cyber Diplomacy Toolbox**, including capacity building, political declarations, demarches, dialogues, sanctions, to **address persistent malicious behaviour** in cyberspace.	• **Dialogues** with third countries & international organisations; • Develop inter-regional **partnerships** and set-up bi-regional networks of Cyber Ambassadors; • Exchanges with **civil society, academics, private sector**.	• Increase cyber resilience and cyber defence capabilities, as well as capacities of partners to investigate and prosecute cybercrimes and engage on cyber diplomacy; • Around **30 projects** in cybercrime & cybersecurity, including in the **Western Balkans** and in the **Eastern and Southern neighbourhood**.

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/cyber-diplomacy-and-cyber-defence-eu-external-action_en

The attached fact-box provides an overview of the threats the EU are facing in relation to Cyber Security as well as the ways in which the EU can combat them.

Maritime security:

6 strategic objectives

1) Step up activities at sea:
- organising an annual naval exercise at EU level
- reinforcing existing EU naval operations
- developing further coastguard in sea basins around the EU
- expanding the Coordinated Maritime Presences concept to new maritime areas of interest

2) Cooperate with partners by:
- deepening EU-NATO cooperation
- enhancing partnerships with likeminded countries, regional and international organisations
- deploying EU liaison officers to maritime information centres in non-EU countries
- promoting dialogue and best practices through the coast guard function forums

3) Enhance maritime domain situational awareness by:
- strengthening the Common Information Sharing Environment (CISE) and MARSUR
- reinforcing coastal and off-shore patrol vessel surveillance

4) Manage risks and threats by:
- conducting regular live maritime exercises involving civil and military entities
- monitoring and protecting critical maritime infrastructure and ships from physical and cyber threats
- tackling unexploded ordnance and mines at sea
- developing further awareness and preparedness to tackle threats linked to climate change and environmental degradation

5) Boost capabilities by:
- developing common requirements and concepts for defence technologies in the maritime domain
- stepping up work on projects such as the European Patrol Corvette or improving anti-submarine capabilities

6) Educate and train by:
- boosting hybrid and cyber security qualifications notably on the civilian side
- conducting training and joint exercises open to non-EU partners

Credit: EU

Why do we need to act?

Ensuring safe and secure oceans is vital for the European and world economies:

Over 80% of global trade is seaborne

About **two-thirds** of the world's oil and gas supply is extracted at sea or transported by sea

Up to 99% of international data transfers and communications are done through submarine cables (over **400 submarine cables** extending over 1.3 million kilometres)

We need to deal with an increasing number of traditional and new threats:

Traditional threats (piracy, armed robbery, smuggling, human trafficking, arms and narcotics, etc.)

Hybrid- and cyber-attacks on **critical infrastructure** (submarine cables, pipelines, etc.)

Climate change and environmental degradation (marine pollution, depletion of fish stocks, loss of biodiversity)
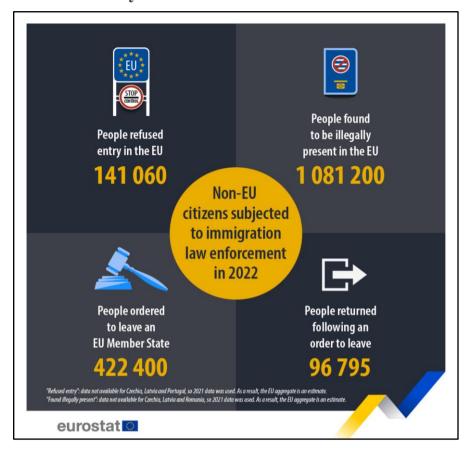
Credit: EU

The attached fact-box provides an overview of both threats and vulnerabilities while at the same time giving multiple examples of ways in which the EU can act to combat them.
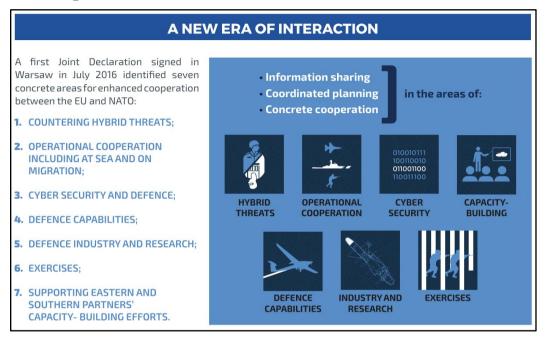
Border security:

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-eurostat-news/w/DDN-20230505-2

Statistics on non-EU citizens who had been subjected to immigration law enforcement in 2022.

EU Cooperation with allies:

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/eu_nato_factshee_november-2020-v2.pdf

Showcases the different ways the EU and NATO cooperate within a variety of areas.

→ FURTHER LINKS FOR YOU TO EXPLORE:

- https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/common-security-and-defence-policy_en
- https://www.european-cyber-defence-policy.com/Common_Security_Defence_Policy_(CSDP).html
- https://eur-lex.europa.eu/homepage.html
- https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/international-day-peace-global-peace-remains-eu%E2%80%99s-main-goal_en#:~:text=The%20EU%20continues%20to%20engage,EU%20invests%20heavily%20in%20peace.
- https://fpi.ec.europa.eu/what-we-do/conflict-prevention-peace-and-stability_en