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## **Canada, the European Union and NATO**

### **Handout B: The EU and European Security**

The European Union (EU) possesses several agencies and policies focused on the issue of security, including: the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), the External Action Service (EEAS), and the European Defence Agency (EDA). This handout will primarily discuss the CSDP and its predecessors.

Most foreign policy decisions in the EU are established on a consensus decision-making basis. The Maastricht Treaty — which was agreed to by member states in 1991 and entered into force in 1993 — established the principle of a common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) for the EU. Five years later, in 1998, leaders of the United Kingdom and France issued the Saint Malo Declaration, which stated the need for the EU to develop the capacity for autonomous action backed by credible military force. Following these two developments, the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) was launched in 1999 and took effect with the Treaty of Nice in 2003; it involved the gradual development of some military force. The Lisbon Treaty (2009) then changed the ESDP to the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). The CSDP conducts missions for the purpose of preserving peace, preventing conflict, and strengthening international security in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter.

Under the CSDP the EU itself has no standing army. Rather, EU civilian and military missions are established with contributions from the EU member states. In addition, two battle groups of 1500 personnel are on standby to respond rapidly, but these have not been deployed.

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Under CSDP, there should be no competition with NATO; rather CSDP works in cooperation with NATO.

The Lisbon Treaty brought other changes in the security and foreign policy sphere. The treaty provided for the creation of an EU diplomatic corps, the European External Action Service (EEAS), as well as the position of High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. Since December 2019, the latter position has been held by Josep Borrell Fontelles, a former politician and academic from Spain. Another important initiative resulting from the Lisbon Treaty is Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO). Implementation began in December 2017. Under PESCO participation of EU member states is organized around particular projects, which include initiatives that address issues such as military training, military mobility, cyberthreats, intelligence training, and a wide range of projects targeted at specific technical capabilities.

In 2003 the EU adopted its first security strategy, the European Security Strategy; in 2016 this was updated with The EU Global Strategy (EUGS). This document addresses a wide range of issues under the umbrella of ‘security’, including threats from terrorism, protection of civilians, energy in security, climate change, and other crisis situations not only in Europe but in neighbouring regions. It also emphasizes the linkages between external threats and internal security and the importance of cooperation among EU member states as well as with external partners in addressing them.

Underlying all of these initiatives is the assumption, sometimes stated and sometimes not, that the EU will continue to cooperate with NATO in the security realm. In 2002, a comprehensive package of agreements between NATO and the EU, known as the Berlin Plus agreement, was reached. It is comprised of several parts including a NATO-EU Security Agreement, which, among other things, assures access to NATO planning capabilities for EU-led Crisis Management Operations (CMO), as well as the availability of NATO assets and capabilities for such operations. Nonetheless, in spite of this official partnership between NATO and the EU, there have been recurrent discussions about the potential overlap in security mandates between the EU and NATO, as well as over the need for increased European defense capabilities that are not reliant on the United States. Consideration of a more autonomous European security capacity largely stems from questions raised about the depth of the American commitment to NATO’s collective defense system, based on comments made by U.S. President Donald Trump.<sup>2</sup> These questions have contributed to a renewed interest among some European leaders in fostering Europe’s own defence capabilities. For example, French President Emmanuel Macron has suggested that Europe should develop its own army, and German Chancellor indicated that, “The days when we can unconditionally rely on others are gone,” also expressing support for eventual creation of a “real European army”.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> See for example, Eileen Sullivan, “Trump Questions the Core of NATO: Mutual Defense, including Montenegro,” New York Times, July 18, 2018, [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\\_136388.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_136388.htm); and Julian E. Barnes, and Helene Cooper, “Trump Discussed Pulling U.S. From NATO, Aides Say Amid New Concerns Over Russia,” New York Times, Jan. 14, 2019, [https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\\_136388.htm](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_136388.htm)

<sup>3</sup> Katrin Bennhold and Steven Erlanger, “Merkel Joins Macron in Calling for a European Army ‘One Day’”, New York Times, Nov. 13, 2018, <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/13/world/europe/merkel-macron-european-army.html>

Given the existence of the CSDP, is NATO still vital for European security? Moreover, what does the development of the CSDP mean for Canadian involvement in European security? Since NATO has been a primary means to link Canada to European Allies in the security sphere, would a reduction in NATO's role reduce Canada's influence in transatlantic security policy and make us more dependent on the U.S. for security needs?

### Interactive Role-play

**Topic:** Should the EU develop its own army to make European countries less dependent on NATO for its defence and security?

**Distribute roles (countries) to students:** Students will take on their assigned role as ambassador of a particular country and represent their country's interests during the discussion (from the list below), while the teacher will chair the meeting and make sure debate rules are followed.

Following are potential country options for the students (it is recommended that countries marked with an asterisk\* are represented if there are less than 30 students):

- |                   |                     |                         |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. ALBANIA        | 12. HUNGARY         | 22. POLAND*             |
| 2. BELGIUM        | 13. ICELAND         | 23. PORTUGAL            |
| 3. BULGARIA       | 14. ITALY*          | 24. ROMANIA             |
| 4. CANADA*        | 15. LATVIA*         | 25. SLOVAKIA            |
| 5. CROATIA        | 16. LITHUANIA*      | 26. SLOVENIA            |
| 6. CZECH REPUBLIC | 17. LUXEMBOURG      | 27. SPAIN               |
| 7. DENMARK        | 18. MONTENEGRO      | 28. TURKEY*             |
| 8. ESTONIA*       | 19. NETHERLANDS*    | 29. THE UNITED KINGDOM* |
| 9. FRANCE*        | 20. NORTH MACEDONIA | 30. THE UNITED STATES*  |
| 10. GERMANY*      | 21. NORWAY*         |                         |
| 11. GREECE        |                     |                         |

**The process:** The representatives will have an option of preparing a declaration or responding to a declaration. The declaration is proposed during the NATO meeting, and it is then debated and/or revised. Representatives may disagree with the declaration altogether; representatives may wish to disagree on certain points or words used, and offer a revision; representatives may support the declaration and respond to criticism. After debate and revisions, the final proposed declaration is presented and the NATO members vote on the declaration (yes, no, or abstain (not voting). Since the vote must be unanimous to accept the declaration, all NATO members must either vote "yes" or "abstain" and there shall not be any "no" votes.

**The declaration:** The students, as representatives of their country, will have a chance to develop their own NATO declaration based on the topic selected (is NATO still vital for European security or should the EU develop its own military force?). The declaration can be as long as required — anywhere from one sentence to a few paragraphs — focusing on a political statement with reasoning. Representatives should remember that they are representing their country's interests first, and are trying to encourage their agenda during the declaration and meeting. Declaration examples:

- 1. Europe should continue to rely primarily on NATO for its military security needs, and should not try to develop its a specific EU military force; OR*
- 2. Given uncertainly about US commitments to meet European security needs, the EU should proceed to develop a unified European military force that can operate autonomously to meet European security needs.*

**The debate:** The teacher will work as the chair of the meeting, administering rules of debate. If more than one declaration is prepared, the chair will present each one at the start of the debate and they shall be voted on. The vote will determine which declarations will debated and voted on first. After the order of debate is established, the chair will invite the sponsoring representative (one who wrote the declaration) to read the declaration. The chair will then invite the debate to begin, where representatives will have a chance to support, disagree with, and propose to revise the declaration. With regards to revisions, any representative may propose a specific revision and it could be brought to a vote with the chair counting the votes (yes, no, abstain), where a unanimous vote is needed for the revision to be applied. If there is continued engagement from the representatives, the chair may continue the debate as needed, or continue to the next declaration.

**The final vote:** The chair will bring the declaration(s) to a final vote, where NATO representatives will vote (yes, no, abstain) on carrying the declaration. If the declaration passes, congratulations — the NATO alliance worked together to create a particular stance. If the declaration fails, that is also great — it is not always easy to create unanimous consensus and now you learned why!

Sources and videos for more information:

EU Parliamentary Service explains European Defence and CSDP (might have an EU bias):  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uj385Rq\\_66I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uj385Rq_66I)

EU's CDSP top priorities and global strategy (EU's official stance):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iuq-aWfC7PQ>

A quick explanation from NowThis World on EU/NATO European security approach:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICsVWGq\\_rWU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICsVWGq_rWU)

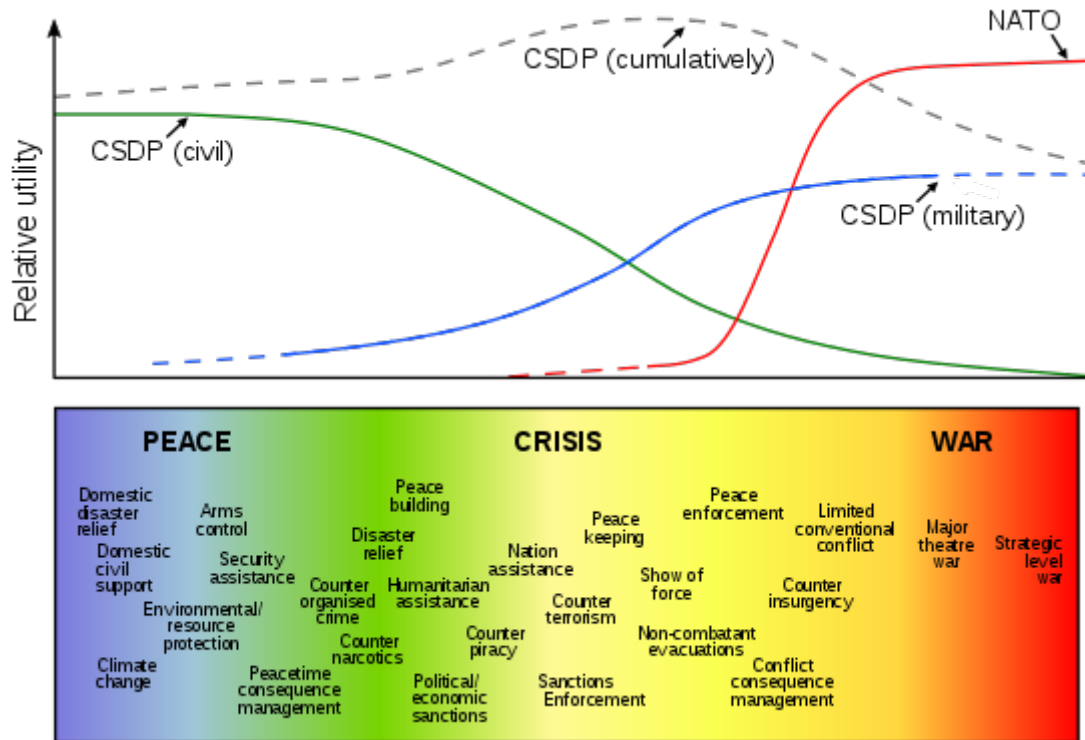
In-depth explanation of EU's CSDP operations (likely to have an EU bias):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVdz0vDOKuc>

A brief EU Parliamentary Podcast explaining EU's Security and defence in 2019 and emerging threats (likely to have some EU bias): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYMpaOlZcAE>

A brief description by the EDA of the EDA and how EU's defence policy is structured (likely have an EU bias): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sy6pKb\\_sdW0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sy6pKb_sdW0)

## Appendix A

Figure 2: CSDP vs. NATO



Source: Wikimedia Commons.

Note: Chart presented in 2012 by then [Director General](#) of the [Military Staff](#) Lt. gen. [Ton van Osch](#).