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OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3538th Council meeting

Foreign Affairs

Defense issues

Brussels, 18 May 2017

President

Federica Mogherini

High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security
Policy

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CONTENTS¹**ITEMS DEBATED**

EU Global Strategy - Implementation in the area of security and defence.....	3
EU-NATO cooperation.....	3
Counter-terrorism.....	4
IN THE MARGINS	4
European Defence Agency Steering Board	4

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

none

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- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
- Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
- Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

ITEMS DEBATED

EU Global Strategy - Implementation in the area of security and defence

Following up on the discussions held by foreign ministers at the Council meeting on 15 May, defence ministers had a debate on the implementation of the EU Global Strategy in the area of security and defence. They assessed progress and highlighted a number of priority initiatives. The Council adopted conclusions on security and defence in the context of the EU Global Strategy.

["EU remains committed to strengthen security and defence": Council adopts conclusions](#)

EU-NATO cooperation

The Council had a discussion on **EU-NATO cooperation** with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg. Ministers for defence took stock of the current state of cooperation, in particular of the common set of 42 proposals in the 7 areas identified in the Joint Declaration by the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission and the Secretary-General of NATO.

They welcomed the progress made in cooperation in several areas, in particular in countering **hybrid threats**, as well as in **information sharing**, **strategic communications**, and **maritime cooperation**. They underlined the need for **comprehensive EU-NATO coordination and complementarity** and the commitment of the EU to a strong transatlantic relationship.

Ministers also highlighted that in a complex security environment, the EU and NATO can further enhance their cooperation, including with regard to the **stabilisation of the neighbourhood**, **cyber threats** and **common exercises**.

Both High Representative Federica Mogherini and Secretary-General Stoltenberg emphasised that **cooperation between the EU and NATO has become the norm rather than the exception**, with the two organisations working together in a practical and operational way to their mutual benefit.

The EU and NATO will present **a joint progress report** in June taking stock of the implementation of the common set of proposals. In the second semester, they may look at other proposals to further strengthen and deepen their cooperation.

This discussion was timely in view of the forthcoming NATO leaders' meeting taking place in Brussels on 24 and 25 May.

Counter-terrorism

Over lunch, defence ministers discussed counter-terrorism together with home affairs ministers. They focused on improving cooperation and information exchange between military and law enforcement structures.

IN THE MARGINS

European Defence Agency Steering Board

Defence ministers met in the European Defence Agency (EDA) Steering Board under the chairmanship of Federica Mogherini in her capacity as Head of the Agency. All EU member states except Denmark participate.

Defence ministers endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of EDA's long term review (LTR), approved the establishment the cooperative financial mechanism (CFM) as an EDA Ad-Hoc category A programme and encouraged the agency to continue, together with the EEAS, its work on the definition of the planned Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD).

[More information](#)
