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OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3602nd Council meeting

Foreign Affairs

Defence issues

Brussels, 6 March 2018

President **Federica Mogherini**
High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security
Policy

P R E S S

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6838/18

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CONTENTS¹**ITEMS DEBATED**

Security and defence	3
EU-NATO cooperation	3
Permanent structured cooperation (PESCO).....	4
Training missions	4

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED*FOREIGN AFFAIRS*

– Force catalogue 2017.....	5
– Modification of the exercise specifications for MILEX 18.....	5

INTERNAL MARKET

– Motor vehicles - technical prescriptions for type approval	5
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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

Security and defence

EU defence ministers exchanged views on the broader aspects of security and defence cooperation, including consistency across ongoing EU defence initiatives. The debate covered matters such as the European Defence Fund and ongoing work to adopt the regulation on the European Defence Industrial Development Programme.

Ministers also underlined the importance of military mobility as an important priority for greater cooperation between EU member states and also between the EU and NATO. The need for adequate resources and financial instruments to achieve the new level ambition of the EU in the field of security and defence was also mentioned. In this context, the High Representative presented to the ministers her initiative on a proposal for an off-EU budget European peace facility, on which preparatory work will continue in the coming months.

[EU cooperation on security and defence \(background information\)](#)

EU-NATO cooperation

Defence ministers discussed EU-NATO cooperation with the Deputy Secretary General of NATO, Rose Gottemoeller. Ministers underlined the importance of the ongoing work on 74 proposals in 7 different areas — work that the EU is conducting with NATO and that has brought the two organisations closer together than ever. Ministers emphasised the need to work on implementation to deliver further concrete results. They highlighted cooperation in areas such as resilience, cyber security and countering hybrid threats, and highlighted military mobility in particular.

Ministers also pointed out that stronger European cooperation on defence makes for a more robust European pillar within NATO, and that this work is conducted in full complementarity with NATO. Noting that it will give new political impetus to cooperation between the two organisations, they welcomed the agreement of the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission and the Secretary General of NATO to start working towards a new declaration which could be signed in the margins of the forthcoming NATO summit in July.

[Factsheet on EU-NATO cooperation \(EEAS\)](#)

Permanent structured cooperation (PESCO)

Defence ministers met in 'PESCO format' for the first time. This means that, although ministers from all member states were present, only those representing member states participating in PESCO were involved in adopting legal acts. Today they adopted a decision formally establishing the list of projects to be developed under PESCO and a recommendation on an implementation roadmap.

In their discussion, defence ministers underlined the importance of implementing PESCO projects and pursuing work to define processes and governance in the months to come.

[Council adopts an implementation roadmap for the Permanent Structured Cooperation \(PESCO\)](#)

Training missions

Over lunch, defence ministers reviewed EU CSDP missions and operations. They focused on the three non-executive military training missions in the Central African Republic, Mali and Somalia.

Defence ministers welcomed the added value brought by the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC), which has had responsibility for the operational planning and conduct of the three missions since its creation one year ago. Ministers underlined their commitment to continuing to support both the MPCC and the training teams on the ground with adequate staffing.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Force catalogue 2017

The Council took note of the force catalogue 2017. This is part of the EU capability development mechanism to establish military requirements, monitor and evaluate progress, and address shortfalls.

Modification of the exercise specifications for MILEX 18

The Council modified the exercise specifications (EXSPEC) for the EU crisis management military exercise in 2018 (MILEX 18). This year, the annual exercise will be conducted from 13 to 24 April. It will focus on the military planning process for the deployment of EU military forces.

[EU cooperation on security and defence](#)

INTERNAL MARKET

Motor vehicles - technical prescriptions for type approval

The Council adopted a [decision](#) supporting amendments to a number of regulations of the agreement of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) concerning the adoption of uniform technical prescriptions for wheeled vehicles, which need to be adapted to reflect technical progress.

The decision includes support for a new proposal for a UN Global Technical Regulation laying down uniform provisions concerning the safety of electric vehicles.

[UNECE](#) develops harmonised requirements intended to remove technical barriers to the trade in motor vehicles between the contracting parties of the agreement. The EU is a contracting party to this agreement and votes on behalf of the member states.