

# Why European Defence and Security Matter?

European defence and security are critical for the stability of the continent, the protection of democratic values, and the EU's ability to act as a global actor. As geopolitical tensions rise, the importance of a strong and coordinated European security strategy has never been greater.



## 1. Geopolitical Instability and External Threats

- **Russian Aggression:** The war in Ukraine has highlighted the need for European military preparedness and resilience against conventional and hybrid warfare;
- **NATO and Transatlantic Relations:** While NATO remains central to European defence, concerns over U.S. commitment to European security mean that the EU must enhance its own capabilities;
- **China's Global Influence:** China's military expansion and investment in critical infrastructure (e.g., 5G, ports) pose economic and security risks for Europe.



 NATO Member Countries

## 2. Security of European Citizens



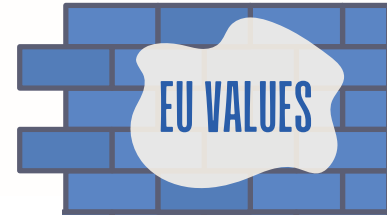
- **Terrorism and Radicalization:** Jihadist and far-right terrorism remain threats, requiring intelligence-sharing and counterterrorism efforts.
- **Cybersecurity Threats:** Cyberattacks on governments, businesses, and infrastructure (often state-sponsored) threaten national security and economic stability.
- **Migration and Border Security:** Managing migration flows while upholding human rights is a key security challenge, particularly at the EU's external borders.



## 3. Strategic Autonomy and Defence Capabilities

- **Reducing Dependence on the U.S.:** The EU aims to develop independent military capabilities, as seen in initiatives like **PESCO (Permanent Structured Cooperation)** and the **European Defence Fund (EDF)**.
- **Military Readiness and Coordination:** Europe's fragmented defence industries and varied national forces need better coordination to respond effectively to crises.

#### 4. Protection of European Values and Interests



→ **Democratic Stability:** Security threats, including disinformation campaigns and election interference, undermine democratic institutions.

→ **Rule of Law and Human Rights:** The EU promotes a values-based approach to security, balancing military preparedness with legal and ethical commitments.

#### 5. The EU as a Global Actor

→ **Crisis Management and Peacekeeping:** The EU plays a role in international security, with missions in the Balkans, Africa, and the Middle East.

→ **Economic and Energy Security:** Diversifying energy sources and securing supply chains are crucial for reducing reliance on external powers.

#### CONCLUSION:



European defence and security matter because they protect citizens, ensure stability, and safeguard democratic values in an increasingly uncertain world. While NATO remains essential, the EU must enhance its own strategic capabilities to respond to modern threats. Balancing national sovereignty with collective security efforts will define the future of European defence policy.