



SECURITY AND DEFENCE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND NORWAY

1. The EU and Norway face a volatile and increasingly challenging security environment in Europe, as demonstrated by Russia's unprovoked and unjustified, war of aggression against Ukraine. Russia attempts to change unilaterally, by force, the internationally recognised borders of Ukraine and the security order in Europe. Norway and the EU adhere to international law and stand united to uphold and strengthen the rules-based international order, based on the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. Respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights will continue to underpin the cooperation between the EU and Norway.
2. The security and prosperity of Norway and the EU are interconnected and interdependent. These links have geopolitical, economic, and security dimensions, including in areas that go beyond traditional strategic domains, such as cyber and hybrid threats, space, the resilience of critical infrastructure and economic security.
3. Norway is the EU's most closely associated partner, including in the area of security and defence. The cooperation between the EU and Norway is based on shared values and interests, exemplified by Norway's alignment with EU CFSP positions as stated by the EU Council, including EU restrictive measures.
4. Relations between Norway and the EU are regulated by a comprehensive legal framework. Through the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA), Norway is part of the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base and European strategic value chains. The EEA Agreement is also relevant for Norway's participation in EU programmes.

5. Norway contributes to European internal security through the associated membership of the Schengen cooperation, including national control of the external Schengen border in the north towards Russia, and contributions to Frontex operations at the EU's external borders in the south.
6. Norway is a key and valuable partner in the area of peace, security and defence, and an active third state participant in the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). In 2004, the EU and Norway concluded a Security of Information Agreement, and in 2005 a Framework Participation Agreement was signed to facilitate Norway's participation in CSDP missions and operations. Since then, Norway has participated in three military and nine civilian missions and operations. In 2024, the EU's Political and Security Committee agreed to invite Norway to offer contributions to two missions: the EU Mission in Armenia and the EU Partnership Mission in the Republic of Moldova.
7. Since 2006, an Administrative Arrangement between the Norwegian Ministry of Defence and the European Defence Agency has allowed for the exchange of views and sharing of information on matters of common interest, and for Norway to participate in specific projects and programmes of the Agency. As a third state participant under the framework of Permanent Structured Cooperation on security and defence (PESCO), Norway participates in the project Military Mobility. The EU and Norway are closely aligned in their support to Ukraine, as shown through Norway's generous contribution to the European Peace Facility.
8. In the current security environment, the strategic partnership between the EU and NATO is vital for ensuring security in Europe and beyond. For the EU, its strategic partnership with NATO is essential for Euro-Atlantic security. The EU's security and defence initiatives contribute to a more capable European defence that enhances global and transatlantic security, and is complementary to, and interoperable with NATO. For Norway, NATO is the cornerstone of its deterrence and collective defence. Norway supports EU-NATO cooperation to the benefit of European and Transatlantic security. Therefore, Norway's participation in the EU's security and defence activities also aims to underpin the mutually reinforcing EU-NATO strategic partnership.
9. Norway is a valued actor and partner in the field of peace mediation and conflict prevention. Norway and the EU have a longstanding dialogue on Non-Proliferation and Disarmament.

General framework

10. The EU and Norway have decided to establish and implement a tailor-made, mutually beneficial Security and Defence Partnership that will frame their overall cooperation across the security and defence spectrum.
11. The Security and Defence Partnership will be underpinned by dialogue and consultation mechanisms to facilitate exchange of information, steering and oversight:
 - ◇ The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy invites Norway to participate in the biannual Schuman Security and Defence Forum, together with key partners of the EU.
 - ◇ The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy may, where appropriate, invite Norway to EU high-level meetings, including at the Council as appropriate.
 - ◇ A dedicated Security and Defence Dialogue between Norway and the EU takes place annually, at the level of State Secretary and Deputy Secretary General, respectively. The EU and Norway will make full use of this Security and Defence Dialogue to ensure monitoring of the implementation of the Security and Defence Partnership and provide guidance as appropriate.
 - ◇ Annual working level consultations will prepare the Security and Defence Dialogue between Norway and the EU, as well as ensure follow up to the guidance set by the Security and Defence Dialogue.

Areas of Cooperation

12. Within the general framework established by the Security and Defence Partnership, the EU and Norway aim to expand their cooperation in the following areas:

Continued long-term support for Ukraine

13. Norway and the EU will further strengthen and enhance efficient mechanisms for long-term support of Ukraine. The EU and Norway will continue to support the armed forces of Ukraine under the European Peace Facility, including increased production of defence material, ammunition and missiles. Norway and the EU will continue to support Ukraine's civil sector.

International peace and crisis management

14. The EU and Norway will further strengthen and expand their longstanding cooperation in the field of crisis management. Norway will continue its participation in EU CSDP civilian missions and consider future participation in military operations. Norway will continue its participation in the EU's crisis management exercises (EU Integrated Resolve and MILEX).
15. If Norway indicates its intention to contribute to a CSDP mission or operation, Norway and the EU will intensify interaction and exchange of information, to facilitate the intended Norwegian contribution in line with the established procedures.
16. The EU and Norway will deepen their exchanges on consular matters affecting the safety and security of their citizens in third countries, in particular on consular crisis preparedness and response. Norway and the EU will hold regular consultations on the subject.

Maritime Security

17. Norway and the EU will continue their regular exchanges on maritime security, with the aim to promote a free and rules-based maritime security environment, including secure sea lines of communication and the protection of freedoms of navigation and overflight, in accordance with international law, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
18. The EU and Norway will consider strengthened cooperation on maritime security, including joint activities and port calls, and enhanced dialogue on the EU's initiatives, and programmes on maritime domain, including through the Coordinated Maritime Presences.

Defence initiatives, policies and instruments

19. Norway and the EU will continue and expand consultations on their respective defence initiatives, tools and instruments related to security and defence, including defence industry. Norway will continue its active participation in the European Defence Fund, Act in Support of Ammunition Production, the European Defence Industry Reinforcement through common Procurement Act, the Galileo and Copernicus parts of the EU Space Program, and the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.
20. The EU and Norway will explore the possibilities for Norway's further involvement in the EU's defence initiatives such as the European Defence Industry Programme, as part of the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base.
21. This includes additional possibilities for Norway's participation in PESCO projects, in line with the

general conditions under which third States could exceptionally be invited to participate in individual PESCO projects, as well as participation in EU defence industrial initiatives, in accordance with the relevant rules and procedures, notably the EEA Agreement. Likewise, based on Member States guidance in the EDA Steering Board, further cooperation will be explored between EDA and Norway.

22. Norway and the EU will explore additional measures to ensure that classified information can be exchanged safely and effectively, in accordance with the Agreement between the Kingdom of Norway and the European Union on security procedures for the exchange of classified information.

Space security and defence

23. The EU and Norway will systematically address space security (including policy) in the annual Security and Defence Dialogue and increase exchanges on space security.
24. Norway and the EU will continue to foster practical cooperation and partnership through Norway's participation in EU space-related programmes in accordance with relevant rules and procedures.
25. The EU, in close coordination with its Member States, and Norway will promote the coordination of their engagements on space-related security and defence issues in multilateral fora – in particular at the United Nations - including to promote norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviour in outer space.

Cyber issues

26. Norway and the EU will deepen the existing cooperation on cyber issues, including by establishing regular exchanges on the cyber security threat landscape, respective policy frameworks and practical cooperation in multilateral fora, including the UN.
27. The EU and Norway will also exchange on tools and best practices to prevent, deter and respond to malicious cyber activities, including through diplomatic measures. Norway and the EU will deepen their exchange and cooperation on cyber capacity building efforts for partner countries.

Countering hybrid threats

28. The EU and Norway will consider deepening their cooperation on research on and analyses of hybrid threats, including by supporting close cooperation between academic institutions, think tanks, as well as through the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats.
29. Norway and the EU will share best practices in developing strategies and policies, including

diplomatic responses to hybrid threats, and cross-participation in exercises.

Strategic communications and countering foreign information manipulation and interference

30. The EU and Norway will proactively share information on threat assessments in the disinformation domain through bilateral exchanges on foreign manipulation and interference and explore operational cooperation.

Resilience of critical infrastructure

31. Norway and the EU will strengthen consultations on their respective approaches to enhance the resilience of critical infrastructure in Europe, including underwater infrastructure. The EU will base its efforts on the EU Directive on the Resilience of Critical Entities and the Council recommendation on a Union wide coordinated approach.

Counter-terrorism, preventing/countering violent extremism

32. The EU and Norway will explore cooperation on counterterrorism and the prevention of violent extremism.

Non-proliferation, disarmament and conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons

33. Norway and the EU will further deepen their consultations on non-proliferation, disarmament and conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons, building on the well-established dialogue on arms and dual use exports.

34. The EU and Norway will deepen their coordination on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and other key multilateral instruments, as well as export control regimes.

35. Norway and the EU will promote enhanced dialogue among nuclear-weapon states towards a future possible nuclear arms control framework.

Capacity building for partners in security and defence

36. Building on their well-established cooperation, the EU and Norway will explore further opportunities for coordination, cooperation and synergies in support of capacity building for partners in the field of security and defence.

Training and education in security and defence

37. Norway and the EU will continue cooperation in the field of training and education related to CSDP and crisis management, including developing cooperation with the European Security and Defence College (ESDC). Norway is welcome to send participants to ESDC activities.
38. Furthermore, the EU and Norway will explore opportunities to enhance cooperation within the framework of the ESDC Associated Network Partners (ANP), which allows Norwegian institutions to co-organise training and education activities in collaboration with a full member of the ESDC Network.

Peace mediation and conflict prevention

39. Norway and the EU will establish a new dialogue on peace mediation and explore cooperation on conflict prevention, including cooperation in the field of CSDP, joint support to third states, sharing of best practices, and joint training.
40. The EU and Norway will enhance their coordination on shared priorities in peace mediation and conflict prevention in multilateral fora, notably in the UN context.

Cooperation in third countries and multilateral fora

41. EU delegations and offices, and Norwegian missions and embassies in third countries will seek further opportunities to cooperate closely and exchange information bilaterally, as appropriate, as well as within likeminded groups, in areas relevant to the Security and Defence Partnership.
42. Norway and the EU will further strengthen cooperation and regular consultations on multilateral affairs, including on matters related to the United Nations, the OSCE and the Council of Europe. Norway and the EU will increase regular exchanges on issues of mutual interest in the context of the EU-NATO cooperation framework.
43. The EU and Norway will increase their exchanges on respective contributions and support to UN Peacekeeping Operations.

External aspects of economic security

44. Norway and the EU will explore ways to exchange views on external aspects of their respective economic security policies, with the aim to address shared risks while maintaining and improving a well-functioning international rules-based system to continue to benefit from an open economy.

Women, Peace and Security

45. The EU and Norway are committed to the full implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, which consists of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, its follow-up resolutions, as well as national and EU's own Action Plans, and will ensure that gender equality is integrated in their areas of cooperation on security and defence.
46. Therefore, Norway and the EU will exchange good practices on implementing women, peace and security commitments, and continue close collaboration to ensure gender equality as a political and security related priority and with an aim to reinforce joint responses to current and emerging security and geopolitical shifts.

Way Forward

47. The areas identified in the Security and Defence Partnership are to be reviewed regularly in the framework of the Security and Defence Dialogue between the EU and Norway, taking stock of progress made and providing impetus, with a view to further strengthen and develop the cooperation.
48. The content of the Security and Defence Partnership is to be reviewed as appropriate.

FOR NORWAY

FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION

Bjørn Arild Gram
Minister of Defence

Espen Barth Eide
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Josep Borrell Fontelles
High Representative of the Union
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy