

EU global strategy on foreign and security policy:

Norwegian perspectives and contributions

Main messages

- *Unity and cooperation, based on common norms, are Europe's most important assets when it comes to reducing vulnerabilities, enhancing resilience and ensuring effective external action. The EU global strategy should acknowledge that these assets are even more potent when they extend beyond the geographical boundaries of the EU, through agreements, dialogue and exchange with like-minded partners.*
- *In the increasingly challenging strategic environment we are all facing, it is essential to strengthen Europe's ability to maintain its own security, stability and prosperity. Further developing the CSDP could play an important role in this respect. Norway will continue to be an active contributor to the CSDP.*
- *The EU should continue to base all its engagement in the maritime domain in the North on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for all activities in the Arctic Ocean. Norway is committed to sound resource management, which is of great importance to Europe's food and energy security. The global strategy should be supportive of the Arctic Council as the main intergovernmental forum for Arctic cooperation, and of other arenas for regional cooperation such as the Barents Cooperation and the Northern Dimension. These cooperative structures promote international cooperation and stability in the Arctic region.*
- *The EU global strategy should emphasise the importance of having firm, consistent and predictable policies on Russia, and on maintaining a relationship built on dialogue and practical cooperation in areas of common interest. Together with like-minded partners, the EU should stand united in upholding international law and respect for human rights in its relations with Russia.*
- *Close cooperation between the EU and NATO strengthens European stability and security. The EU global strategy should encourage the two organisations to expand their cooperation and agree on practical measures for enhancing common situational awareness and strengthening preparedness and responsiveness. These measures should be reflected in both the EU global strategy and the Warsaw NATO summit communiqué, as a common basis for concrete follow-up in both organisations, for example in the context of hybrid threats and maritime security.*
- *By aligning themselves with EU policies and measures, like-minded countries extend the reach of the EU's foreign and security policy. The EU global strategy should encourage close cooperation with like-minded countries on policy formulation in order to expand the geographical scope of EU policies and measures, and thus enhance their effectiveness. One concrete step could be to allow broader participation in EU discussions on restrictive measures.*

Resilience

Unity and cooperation, based on common norms, are Europe's most important assets when it comes to reducing vulnerabilities and enhancing resilience. The EU global strategy should acknowledge that these assets become even more potent when they extend *beyond* the geographical boundaries of the EU, through formal agreements, political dialogue and exchange with like-minded partners. Three aspects of relations between the EU and Norway are relevant in this context:

First, as a participant in the European Economic Area, Norway promotes the principles, rules and further development of the internal market. Norway is also a major contributor to economic and social cohesion in Europe, through the EEA and Norway Grants.

Second, as a result of close dialogue with the EU, Norway is often able to reinforce EU positions and initiatives on the international stage, for instance by aligning itself with EU foreign policy declarations and restrictive measures and by contributing to EU military and civilian missions and operations.

Third, as a stable and reliable exporter of energy, Norway contributes to EU energy security. Norwegian natural gas and renewable energy contribute to the implementation of EU climate and energy policies and the European transition to a low-carbon future.

Regional security

The Transatlantic bond. Today's complex security challenges affect a wide range of different sectors and can rapidly move from one end of the crisis spectrum to the other. This requires close cooperation between the institutions involved in handling such threats, notably the EU and NATO. These two institutions should agree on a set of joint objectives.

In particular, there is a need for practical measures to foster cooperation and identify and address shortcomings in our preparedness for and response to hybrid threats. Specifically, the EU and NATO should take steps to improve cooperation on crisis management, capacity building and stabilisation efforts. Examples of such measures could be:

Better mechanisms or practices for intelligence fusion and sharing; more regular consultations both at staff level and between countries including at ambassadorial level; better coordination of EU and NATO military and civilian exercise programmes that include a focus on hybrid threats; Joint Civil Emergency Planning training and exercises for hybrid scenarios; occasional strategic level (NAC-PSC) table-top discussions or exercises; increased cooperation on maritime security; enhanced cooperation on cyber security; and cooperation on mapping and addressing security sector reform needs in EU and NATO partner countries. Berlin Plus could also be a relevant framework for enhanced EU/NATO cooperation.

The two organisations should aim to identify concrete deliverables on several of these issues in time for the European Council meeting in June and the NATO Warsaw Summit in July.

In parallel to furthering cooperation between the EU and NATO, European states must strengthen their ability to maintain their own security. This calls for larger defence budgets, a

more coherent and coordinated approach to ensuring the efficient use of European defence resources and closer cooperation on capabilities, research and technology. There is a need to strengthen the capacity of the European Defence Agency.

South. We need to consolidate and strengthen our efforts to promote stabilisation and peace in certain states in North Africa, the Middle East and the Sahel. We need to work more strategically in fragile states, combining foreign and security policy tools with development aid and humanitarian assistance. NATO and the EU should explore ways to coordinate their efforts on migration, and to break the power of criminal networks that are running the illegal refugee and migrant business in the Mediterranean Sea. It could be worth considering a joint informal EU - NATO Foreign Ministerial Meeting to address these issues.

East. Europe's relationship with Russia is a fundamental issue in our foreign and security policy. A stable and predictable Russia is in Europe's interest. In times of political differences, we should keep channels of communication open, avoid misunderstandings and reduce tensions. Our policy should be firm, consistent and predictable. It should be conducted through open dialogue and constructive cooperation in areas of common interest. International law must be respected, including the fundamental right of states to conduct their own foreign policy. Together with like-minded partners, the EU should stand united in upholding international law, including respect for universal human rights.

Located on NATO's northern flank with Russia's strategic Northern Fleet close to our borders, Norway gives particular priority to maintaining the High North as an area of stability, peace and international cooperation. Our bilateral cooperation with Russia in this region includes joint fisheries management, protection of a particularly vulnerable environment, nuclear safety, and search and rescue at sea. Norway has suspended the bilateral military cooperation with Russia because of Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea. However, cooperation in areas of particular importance continues, such as Search and Rescue, Incidents at Sea agreement (INCSEA), Coast Guard and Border Guard, as well as the open lines of communication between the Norwegian Joint Headquarters and the Northern Fleet. This is to ensure the safety of all parties at sea in the High North, as well as preserving stability and predictability in our immediate region. We continue to promote people-to-people contacts across our common border to enhance mutual trust and understanding. Norway follows closely Russia's military activities in the North, including the North Atlantic, where we see a more assertive Russian military posture.

We must remain committed to the security and democratic development of the countries in Europe's East. The EU global strategy should acknowledge the right of countries in the region to pursue their European aspirations and affirm that lasting stability and security in Europe can only be achieved on the basis of respect for fundamental rights and values. Norway contributes to EU efforts to promote European integration by aligning our policies and providing financial aid to EU policies, and by supporting the Eastern Partnership.

North. Respect for international law and cooperation is crucial for stability and predictability, and for the sound management of the resources in the Arctic. The EU should continue to base all its maritime engagement in the North on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for all activities in the Arctic Ocean and for the resolution of maritime delimitation issues. This was confirmed by the five coastal states in the Ilulissat Declaration of 2008.

Norway is committed to sound resource management in the North, which is of great importance to Europe's food and energy security. Norway has developed integrated, ecosystem-based management plans for all Norwegian marine areas. These plans identify particularly valuable and vulnerable areas and ensure that both the protection and the utilisation of natural resources are considered.

The global strategy should be supportive of the Arctic Council as the main intergovernmental forum for Arctic cooperation. The EU is an important partner for Norway on Arctic issues. Norway will continue to work for the swift formalisation of the EU's observer status in the Arctic Council.

Implications: An effective foreign and security policy

The EU and like-minded partners like Norway can and should reinforce each other's security and prosperity through coordinated positions and policies on the international stage. The EU global strategy should address the role of like-minded countries and how their involvement in EU policy shaping can enhance the effectiveness of our common actions and positions internationally. A recent example is the joint stance taken on restrictive measures in response to Russia's actions in Eastern Ukraine and annexation of Crimea. In general, increased Norwegian participation in EU policy discussions on restrictive measures would further enhance our coordination in this field. Norway is prepared to work with the EU in our common efforts to build an effective foreign and security policy in an increasingly connected and complex world.