

EUROPE



Trump's Election Reinforces the Need for European Defence!

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In 2003 and 2016, the European Union (EU) adopted a pseudo-global strategy, and in 2022, a Strategic Compass, which is only a declaration of intent, incapable of changing the practice of “everybody for himself”. At the end of 2024, Europe is still without a truly common foreign policy, a truly common defence policy, or a European army, for lack of a federal government, legitimate because democratic. The EU is not a state, but an

association of states, incapable of facing threats, which range from geopolitics to climate change. The Commission is not an executive power, and the European Council does not define the EU's main strategic axes well, because it cares little about the general interest of Europeans, concerned as it is above all with the interests of the governments of the Member States. The EU implements politico-military institutions: an External Action Service; a Political and Security Committee; a Military Committee; a Strategic Staff, but no operational staff; a Defence Agency; a Satellite



Source: <https://cvtpress.ro/14.01.2025/se-reseteaza-relatiile-sua-ue/>

Centre, which has inaccurate commercial images; an Institute for Security Studies; a College of Security and Defence, but not an intelligence service. It has no military capabilities and therefore no weight on the geopolitical scene. Its *European Peace Facility*, which finances arms deliveries to partner states, has 11.1 billion €. Its *European Defence Fund*, which aims to stimulate cooperation between defence manufacturers, has a budget of €7.9 billion for the period 2021-2027. Crumbs compared to the EU's GDP, €16,970 billion in 2023.

Is Europe's Defence in Danger?

By virtue of Article 24 of the Treaty on EU, this body is competent in the field of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and may progressively define a common defence policy (CSDP) which could lead to a common defence, if the European Council so decides unanimously, as provided for in Article 42(2) TEU. This article further clarifies that the CSDP respects the obligations arising from the North Atlantic Treaty for EU Member States that consider that their common defence is achieved within the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Austria, Cyprus, Ireland and Malta do not consider it, 23 EU member states trust NATO, despite the necessary unanimity in the Atlantic Council which has slowed down the admissions of Finland and Sweden.

If the Atlantic Alliance has been able to deter, it is thanks to American nuclear, intelligence, strategic

transport, anti-aircraft and anti-missile defence capabilities, and to the 1.3 million active military personnel and 800,000 reservists. The American president is the commander-in-chief of these forces, but in fact, he is also ours. Only Charles de Gaulle had been able to emancipate himself from it.

The elections of 5 November 2024 have decided: on 25 January 2025, Mr. Trump will be the next commander-in-chief. They gave his party a majority in both legislative chambers. Mr. Trump does not seem to be in favour of American involvement alongside Europe. Mr. Obama had already had to stop his intervention in Libya due to a lack of parliamentary support. Trump and Biden have put an end to 20 years of American action in Afghanistan, without consultation with their allies. Biden's aid to Ukraine has been blocked for nearly six months as the necessary budget has not been voted.

A European Defence, so that Europe Can Defend Itself Come What May!

Europe should therefore be able, alone if necessary, to defend our common sovereignty, our values and our common interests, to contribute to the protection of the environment, to define and implement industrial, social, monetary, budgetary and energy policies and to fight against tax evasion, particularly by Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon, Microsoft, Baidu, Alibaba, Tencent, Xiaomi, Huawei, Tik Tok etc.

The EU and its Member States do not know how to ensure our security and defence, but the European Federation announced in 1950 by Robert Schuman could: a federal state achieves from the outset the unity of politico-military command that allows for effective crisis management, by conferring the ability to assess the situation, to decide and to act accordingly, for as long as necessary, in the broadest spectrum.

European leaders should finally give Europe the means to make itself heard, to weigh in geopolitical relations. Strengthening NATO's European pillar would allow Europe to speak the language of power, to better defend our interests and better help Ukraine. The sum of European defense budgets is close to half of the U.S. defense budget, but of the million two hundred thousand European soldiers, only a few tens of thousands are sufficiently trained, equipped, and trained to intervene in high-intensity operations. Because of the waste induced by the multiplicity of decision-makers, European weapons systems are now produced in small numbers, which makes them more expensive to acquire, implement and maintain. Our armed forces use 178 types of weapon systems compared to 30 in the United States of America. This penalizes our operational capacity and our defense industrial and technological base. The latter, weakened by three decades of underinvestment, can no longer supply quickly and in the face of Russian aggressiveness, it has been necessary to import American, Turkish and South Korean weapons systems.

South Korea has shown us the importance of applying the basic principles of political science when developing defence policy and defence industrial policy. The sustainability of political will plays a crucial role. It is the only way to set relevant priorities, and therefore consensual, and therefore stable. Only a state organization allows this. Coalitions of states, associations of states and confederations bring together only disparate and fluctuating wills. They do not allow the general to take precedence over particular interests.

A Federal Constitution, the Basis of a European Defence

Europe must halt its scientific, technological, industrial, economic and financial decline, and end its dependence on defence. For Europe to cease to be an essentially normative power, i.e. one that limits itself to legislating, we need a European government capable of acting, implementing, accompanying and adapting our response to crises in a flexible manner. A reform of the European treaties would be ineffective. The newly elected Parliament, the legitimate representative of the citizens, should declare itself a constituent body, inspired by the *Manifesto of the European Resistance*¹ of 1944.

Without a federal constitution, Europe will not be strong, sovereign and democratic, it will not regain its rightful place on the international scene. A European federal government, controlled by the Parliament, is essential. A federal constitution includes a social contract and a description of the executive, legislative and judicial powers, as well as the distribution of competences by level of power: Europe, the Member States, the Regions, primarily in the areas of External Relations, Security and Defence, Internal, Economic, Social and Environmental Affairs, and Public Finance. It sets out the procedure for the entry into force and amendment of the constitution.

The United States of America, where the US Army, US Navy, US Marines, US Air & Space Force, US Coast Guards, but also the National Guards coexist, can inspire the distribution of competences in Europe. The national armed forces have the merit of existing, but we must fill our capability gaps and avoid duplication. To

¹See *sn*, «La Résistance et l'idée européenne», Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and digital History, <https://www.cvce.eu/collections/unit-content/-/unit/02bb76df-d066-4c08-a58a-d4686a3e68ff/81649a8e-0558-4721-b443-d609f19dfa24>.

do this, a single Defence Staff and a single Ministry of Defence should express the needs for re-equipping European armies, including those of the Member States, supervising their preparedness and, if necessary, in the event of aggression, set them to action.

What Can Be Done, Citizens?

Like the Ukrainians, Europeans must find the courage to face up, to dare, to undertake and to innovate. They must invent an ambitious, proud Europe, open to the world and ready to defend its values and interests. They must act, urgently, to restore peace in Europe, to become sovereign, autonomous, independent and respected again. To do this, they must put pressure on their representatives to base the political union of Europe on a federal model, starting with a small nucleus, as was done for the Schengen and € zones.