



Eleventh progress report on the implementation of the common set of proposals endorsed by EU and NATO Councils on 6 December 2016 and 5 December 2017

The EU and NATO continue to stand together in the face of an increasingly dangerous global security environment, in which the stability of the Euro-Atlantic area is threatened by complex, multidimensional and interconnected challenges. In this context, NATO and the EU remain firmly committed to international peace and security, and to the rules-based international order, in line with the Charter of the United Nations.

Both organisations took historic decisions to substantially increase defence spending, defence readiness, and defence industrial production. At The Hague Summit, NATO Allies committed to invest 5% of GDP in defence by 2035, while the EU launched major defence initiatives, notably the ReArm Europe Plan, including the Security Action for Europe (SAFE) instrument and the Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030, providing for unprecedented investment in European defence. This has been instrumental in strengthening Europe's contribution to transatlantic security, directly supporting common members in meeting NATO commitments and enabling Europe to assume a greater share of responsibility for security and defence.

As its unprovoked and illegal war of aggression against Ukraine continues, Russia remains a long-term threat to Euro-Atlantic security. Close cooperation between the two organisations remains indispensable for providing a coordinated response to this threat, as well as for supporting Ukraine. The EU and NATO, together with their respective members, remain at the forefront of international support for Ukraine and provide the overwhelming majority of military, financial, energy, and humanitarian assistance.

This 11th report on the implementation of the 74 common proposals — endorsed by the NATO and EU Councils in 2016 and 2017 — confirms substantial and sustained progress in EU-NATO dialogue and cooperation between June 2025 and May 2026. Consistent with the Joint Declarations on NATO-EU cooperation of 2016, 2018, and 2023, it outlines concrete achievements across the full spectrum of engagement, including political dialogue, mitigation of critical capability shortfalls, civil-military cooperation, new technologies, resilience, expansion of defence industrial production capacities, space, and deterrence against non-traditional and conventional threats.

Political Dialogue

Political dialogue between the EU and NATO has intensified, reflecting a clear and sustained commitment by the leadership of both organisations to deepen interactions, enhance mutual understanding, and advance practical cooperation across all dimensions of the NATO–EU strategic partnership.

This commitment was reaffirmed through regular bilateral contacts between the NATO Secretary General and the Presidents of the European Council, the European Commission, and the European Parliament, as well as the EU High Representative. It was further underscored by the presence of the Presidents of the European Council and the European Commission at the NATO Summit in The Hague. Support to Ukraine remained a central pillar of EU–NATO cooperation. The participation of the EU High Representative and the EEAS Deputy Secretary General, as well as of the NATO Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General, in the respective Foreign and Defence Ministers’ meetings continued to underpin this shared strategic objective.

The NATO Secretary General discussed NATO priorities and NATO-EU cooperation related to European security and defence on several occasions: with the European Parliament, the College of Commissioners, and EU Ambassadors at their annual Conference. He also addressed the EU Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER II).

These engagements were complemented by close and frequent interactions between senior EU and NATO officials, notably the NATO Deputy Secretary General and Assistant Secretaries General; the European External Action Service (EEAS) Secretary General, Deputy Secretaries General and Managing Directors; the European Commission Deputy Secretary General and Directors General; as well as the European Defence Agency (EDA) Chief Executive.

Joint meetings of the Political and Security Committee (PSC) and the North Atlantic Council (NAC) allowed for direct consultations between EU Member States and NATO Allies. During the reporting period, three NAC–PSC meetings were held: a formal session on Operation Althea (September), and two informal meetings on military mobility (December) and support to Ukraine (April).

To foster maximum transparency regarding the implementation of EU defence initiatives, the Commissioner for Defence and Space briefed the NAC (November) on EU defence readiness efforts. With energy security becoming an increasingly pressing shared concern, the Commissioner for Energy participated in the NAC’s annual meeting on energy security, and the NATO Deputy Secretary General in the EU Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council (December). The EEAS Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General briefed the NAC on EU foreign and security policy priorities, including actions in support of Ukraine (January).

These efforts were complemented by regular cross-participation of senior EU and NATO officials in meetings of NATO and EU Security Policy Directors and Defence Policy Directors, alongside briefings to respective committees and working groups, including the PSC, the EDA Steering Board, NATO’s Deputy Permanent Representatives Committee (DPRC), and the Conference of National Armaments Directors (CNAD).

With over 340 cross-briefings since the signing of the 2016 Warsaw Joint Declaration, EU-NATO cooperation featured regularly in the work of respective committees and working parties for the benefit of all NATO Allies and EU Member States. The established practice of informal senior-level meetings, including with the participation of non-EU NATO Allies and non-NATO EU Member States, was also maintained.

The seven Structured Dialogues – on resilience; military mobility; climate change, security and defence; emerging and disruptive technologies (EDTs); space; cyber; and the defence industry - continued to drive cooperation forward, paving the way for further regular expert-level exchanges. These were complemented by Staff Talks on hybrid threats, maritime security, operations, and capacity building for partners, as well as by the Staff Coordination Mechanism on Ukraine.

More frequent NATO-EU Steering Group meetings provided guidance to staffs and oversaw their cooperation, ensuring adequate follow-up to agreed initiatives.

Staffs maintained consistent and regular engagement on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) by exchanging institutional priorities, identifying potential synergies, and sharing best practices. Bilateral exchanges between senior officials, as well as staff-level participation in various international events continued. Engagements between the NATO International Military Staff (IMS) Gender Advisor and the EU Military Staff (EUMS) Horizontal Coordinator also continued in order to enhance military staff cooperation, and both participated in their respective Annual Conferences.

Countering Hybrid and other common challenges

EU-NATO cooperation on hybrid threats continued to grow focusing on respective strategies for countering and responding to such threats, and ensuring complementary support to respective members and partners, including through the work of rapid response teams. Enhanced coordination and coherence were ensured, notably on strategic communication.

The alignment of hostile hybrid threat actors and the response of the Euro-Atlantic community was discussed in the sixth High-Level Retreat of the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats.

Resilience

Resilience and preparedness continued to be among the most productive and concrete areas of NATO-EU cooperation. Supported by the Structured Dialogue on Resilience, the implementation of the EU's Preparedness Union Strategy (PUS) and NATO's resilience agenda advanced in sync, bolstering overall readiness to protect populations and reinforce civil support to the military. Concretely, the process of reviewing NATO's Baseline Requirements and the EU's work on Minimum Preparedness Requirements have been aligned. Workshops, exercises and scenario-based discussions proved crucial in promoting a deeper understanding of respective initiatives, including on how EU preparedness actions contribute to reinforcing NATO's deterrence and defence mission, on medical evacuation and on protection of critical infrastructure.

Civil-military cooperation advanced in a number of areas. Among others, on energy, efforts focused in particular on ensuring the availability of liquid fuels for military purposes including through a EU-NATO High-Level Industry Roundtable on hybrid threats to energy security and fuel supply in times of crisis. Additionally, the work on medical supplies, equipment supply chains, medical countermeasures, and health security preparedness led to the release of the NATO Medical Action Plan to EU staff, serving as basis to inform EU's initiatives, including the Medical Countermeasures Strategy. Moreover, the protection of civilians in conflict was a subject of trilateral discussions between NATO, the EU and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Systematic cooperation on maritime and undersea critical infrastructure continued, including through regular exchanges, EU participation in the meetings of the NATO Critical Undersea Infrastructure Network and in implementing the EU Action Plan on Cable Security.

The strength of NATO-EU cooperation on resilience was a recurring theme in high-level engagements, such as NATO's Public-Private Cooperation Seminar, and Civilian Planning Conference, and the EU's Preparedness Conference.

Climate Change, Security and Defence

Under the Structured Dialogue on Climate Change, Security and Defence, a series of expert-level discussions focused on incorporating climate security considerations into exercises; the energy transition and its implications for the armed forces; environmental security and water resilience; foresight and risk analysis; and climate change, food security, and defence.

Regular cross-participation in respective courses and workshops continued, including NATO's Climate Change and Security Course, European Security and Defence College's (ESDC) Climate Security Course, as well as the meetings of the European Climate and Defence Network.

Strategic communications

EU and NATO staffs regularly shared insights, coordinated and amplified each other's public communication activities, including on their websites. Staffs promoted consistency in their respective work on interoperability, taxonomies and methodologies for countering foreign information threats and information manipulation, in particular in the context of Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine. This culminated with the first ever NATO and EEAS co-organised Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference (FIMI) Analysts Conference, with the participation of EU Member States, NATO Allies, partners and other stakeholders.

In addition to leveraging established mechanisms, such as the Rapid Alert System (RAS), managed by the EEAS and the NATO Rapid Response Group (NRRG), cooperation through key networks, for instance the G7 Rapid Response Mechanism (G7 RRM), was further enhanced.

As per regular practice, EU staff participated in the annual NATO Information Environment Assessment Tiger Team (NIEATT) meeting. NATO shared relevant insights from its partnership with Ukraine at the EEAS annual conference on FIMI.

CBRN

NATO and the EU continued engaging on CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear) and capacity-building matters, including through the respective CBRN centres of excellence.

Counterterrorism

Cooperation on counterterrorism (CT) continued apace leveraging the Annual Staff Talks. It addressed synergies between NATO's and European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training's (CEPOL) efforts in regional law enforcement training, Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (C-UAS), as well as CT related capacity building activities. Examples include countering CBRN terrorism in Jordan, delivery of maritime security equipment in Mauritania, and resilience of critical infrastructure in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Moreover, CT expert engagements took place with regard to the Western Balkans, Sahel, Iraq and Ukraine.

Cyber security and defence

Staff cooperation on cyber continued at pace under the umbrella of the Structured Dialogue on Cyber. Expert meetings, scenario-based discussions and exercises focused on cyber resilience and preparedness, respective approaches to mitigating, countering and responding to cyber threats, cyber defence policy frameworks, cyber crisis management and capacity building. Coordination on diplomatic responses to malicious cyber activities, in particular on statements, took place. In addition, synergies between the EU Cyber Defence Coordination Centre (EUCDCC) and NATO's Integrated Cyber Defence Centre (NICC) as well as between the NATO Cyber Defence Pledge and the EU Cyber Census were exploited. Cooperation developed also in light of the implementation of the EU Cyber Blueprint, including by establishing points of contact for coordination in the event of a cyber crisis.

The strong cooperation between the Cybersecurity Service for the Union Institutions, Bodies, Offices and Agencies (CERT-EU) and the NATO Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) continued through the exchange of best practices and tools, leveraging their Technical Arrangement on Cyber Defence cooperation.

Cross-participation in cyber exercises continued, including in the EU's Cyber Diplomacy Table-Top Exercise in the EU Council Horizontal Working Party on Cyber Issues, and NATO's Cyber Coalition and Crisis Management Exercise.

Defence capabilities

Efforts continued to ensure the coherence of output between the EU Capability Development Plan (CDP), the Headline Goal Process (HLGP) and the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) and respective NATO processes such as the NATO Defence Planning Process (NDPP) and the Individually Tailored Partnership Programme (ITPP), where requirements overlap, while recognising the different nature of the two organisations and their respective responsibilities and memberships.

In order to address critical capability shortfalls and strengthen national defence capabilities, close contacts at all levels, including between military staffs, ensured mutual awareness of ongoing work by both organisations. The practice of individual Allies to invite the EU staff to attend bilateral and multilateral consultations in the framework of the NDPP continued on Step 5 (review results), with some Allies extending the invitation to multilateral consultations on Step 3 (apportion requirements and set targets). EU staff were also invited by those EU Member States, who are NATO partner nations, to attend ITPP bilateral and multilateral meetings. In parallel, several EU Member States that are also NATO Allies/Partners invited NATO staff to their CARD bilateral meetings.

Under the single set of forces principle, capabilities developed by members of both organisations, including those developed multinationally, remain available for NATO and EU operations, subject to national political decisions.

EU and NATO staffs continued their efforts to enhance complementarity and coherence between their multinational capability development efforts, particularly in relation to the Defence Readiness 2030 initiatives and NATO's High-Visibility Projects. Strengthening air and missile defence capabilities and increasing the production of battle-decisive munitions across all domains remain shared priorities for both organisations. These efforts aim to bolster Allies' and Member States' stockpiles of current capabilities, develop next-generation ones, while also ensuring sustained support to Ukraine in its defence against Russian aggression.

In the land domain, to strengthen information exchange and ensure coherence, staff exchanges as well as cross-participation to relevant EDA and NATO fora continued, including on indirect fire munitions and loitering munitions, simulation-based training soldier power supply, CBRN defence, counter-unmanned aerial systems, and counter-improvised explosive device initiatives.

In the maritime domain, staff exchanges focused on uncrewed maritime systems and standardisation. EDA experts attended the meetings of the NATO Naval Armaments Group (NNAG) and the NATO Joint Capability Group Maritime Unmanned Systems (JCGMUS), while NATO experts attended the EDA Maritime Capability Planners Group and the 2nd Autonomous Systems Community of Interest Conference.

In order to ensure strong coherence, transparency and complementarity between NATO and EU activities, regular EU-NATO staff consultations, including reciprocal participation in the EDA Single European Sky Military Aviation Board and the NATO Aviation Committee meeting have continued. In Military Airworthiness, information exchanges were further pursued between the European Military Airworthiness Authority Forum and the NATO Airworthiness Advisory Group with reciprocal attendance to their meetings by the respective staffs.

In the air domain, notable progress was achieved on military air mobility through alignment of concepts and procedures supporting cross-border operations for manned and unmanned aircraft, as well as on resilient Communication, Navigation and Surveillance solutions addressing interoperability, Global Navigation Satellite System disruption and cyber risks, in close coordination with EUROCONTROL. Cybersecurity and resilience were further strengthened through coordinated work on aviation cyber

risk management, electromagnetically contested environments, and dedicated training and awareness-raising initiatives. Cooperation and coordination on Unmanned Aircraft Systems continued, covering airspace integration, risk-based operations and autonomy. Frequent exchanges ensured mutual awareness and sharing of NATO operational requirements alongside EU investment, research and capability development initiatives. This was complemented by cross participation in the respective Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) expert groups. Drones and C-UAS was also an area of regular engagement at staff level, including in the context of NATO's additional counter-drone measures and EU Action Plan on Drone and Counter Drone Security, as well as in the framework of the relevant EU capability coalitions.

These cooperation strands delivered concrete results. EDA and NATO staffs engaged in developing taxonomy, ontology and lexicon for autonomous systems – resulting in a Standardisation Recommendation (STANREC) 4887 for novel autonomous systems across 36 Nations (EU Member States and NATO Allies). Furthermore, the collaboration resulted in NATO adapting and formally ratifying the STANAG (Standardisation Agreement) 4670 to complement EDA's framework for Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Operations, introducing three coherent categories of operation (Open, Specific and Certificated).

Standards

Standardisation remained a key area of cooperation to increase harmonisation, avoid the duplication of efforts, and raise awareness of both EU Member States and NATO Allies, recognising the leading role of NATO in military standards through STANAGs. Transparency and coordination were pursued through staff engagement and cross-participation in the NATO Committee for Standardization and the European Defence Standardisation Committee. NATO staff engaged with EDA expert groups to ensure alignment between the European Defence Standards Reference System (EDSTAR) and NATO STANAGs. To ensure interoperability of the developed products and technologies, the relevant annual calls for proposals of the European Defence Fund (EDF) referenced non-classified NATO STANAGs, where applicable.

Space

Exchanges deepened including through the Structured Dialogue on Space, cross briefings and cross-participation in events and exercises. Discussions focused on respective initiatives and programmes, as well as interoperability, education and training, promoting responsible space behaviours, the current space environment, and commercial space sector engagement. These discussions were complemented by regular NATO briefings on relevant space capability updates in the EDA Defence in Space Forum.

Military mobility

Military mobility remains a flagship project of EU-NATO cooperation. Under the Structured Dialogue staffs addressed shared priorities and respective work strands, such as military requirements, transport infrastructure, transport of dangerous goods, simplification of customs procedures and cross-border movement permissions, engagement in exercises, and host-nation support.

Frequent exchanges took place in the context of the EU Military Mobility Package, with NATO staff contributing, including with input on NATO's requirements. NATO was also consulted on the EU's "hotspot" list.

To ensure coherence and foster synergies, NATO participated in the Management Committees for EDA's CUSTOMS and Cross Border Movement Permissions projects, while the EDA participated in the NATO Critical Log Initiative Customs Digitalisation. NATO staff attended the kick-off meeting of the EU Priority Capability Area Coordination Group on Military Mobility, which seeks to contribute to a coherent NATO-EU approach to military mobility, briefed the Ad Hoc Working Party on Military Mobility, and took part in the relevant European Economic and Social Committee's Plenary.

Defence industry, innovation and research

Under the Structured Dialogue on Defence Industry, staffs continued consultations on wider defence industry matters to ensure mutual awareness and sharing of best practices, including on defence industrial capacity and on defence industrial and innovation cooperation initiatives with Ukraine. Exchanges further focused on NATO's updated Defence Industrial Production Action Plan and the NATO Industrial Capacity Expansion Report as well as on the EU's ReArm Europe Plan, the Defence Readiness Omnibus Simplification, and the Defence and the Security Sensitive Procurement Directive Review.

Regular engagements at senior management level continued as well as the established practice of cross-briefings by NATO to the EDA Steering Board and by the EDA and the European Commission to NATO's CNAD and the Defence Industrial Production Board. These bolstered mutual awareness of the implementation of the European Defence Readiness Roadmap, SAFE and the European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP) and NATO's defence production initiatives under the updated Defence Production Action Plan (DPAP) and Industrial Capacity Expansion Pledge (NICE Pledge).

Cooperation on supply chain security intensified, with NATO, EDA, and the European Commission addressing stockpiling, recycling, and the substitution of critical raw materials, as well as challenges linked to supply chain bottlenecks. Discussions also covered the implementation of NATO's Defence Critical Supply Chain Security Roadmap, the EDA's work on security of supply, the ReSource EU Action Plan and the EU Critical Raw Materials Act. In this context, NATO staff provided an update to the EDA Incubation Forum for Circular Economy in European Defence Project Circle on "Critical Raw Materials" in 2025.

With the need to urgently ramp up production capacity, staffs prioritised synergies between initiatives. This was also displayed through attendance to respective defence industry related events. The President of the European Commission participated in the NATO Summit Defence Industry Forum in The Hague, while the Chief Executive of the EDA and European Commission staff attended the NATO-Industry Forum in Bucharest. NATO's Assistant Secretary General for Defence Industry, Innovation and

Armaments participated in the EDA Annual Conference and NATO staff attended the European Defence Fund info days.

NATO and European Investment Bank staff exchanges focused on facilitating defence industrial access to finance.

Emerging and disruptive technologies

Staffs contacts under the Structured Dialogue continued to ensure mutual awareness, identify synergies and exchange practices on respective initiatives. With both organisations working to integrate EDTs into capabilities, discussions focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Quantum technologies, as well as innovation, particularly in the context of BraveTech EU and UNITE Brave – NATO. Exchanges were complemented by staff-to-staff talks on AI as well as cross-participation to relevant events, such as EDA’s European Defence Innovation Network or meetings related to the Innovation Ranges Initiative of NATO.

Research

The EDA and the NATO Science and Technology Organization (STO) advanced their dialogue on key scientific and technological priorities including on emerging and disruptive technologies, anticipating future tech trends, technology roadmapping, safeguarding research security and integrity, quantum technologies, and the ethical development and deployment of AI. Staffs reaffirmed their commitment to providing mutual support for the EDA Capability Technology Groups and NATO working groups. To promote complementarity of policies, the STO and the European Commission engaged on research security.

Operational cooperation, including maritime security

EU-NATO staff talks on operational cooperation, as well as cross-briefings focused on respective operations and missions of shared interest, in particular Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), as well as European Union Advisory Mission in Iraq (EUAM) and the NATO Mission Iraq (NMI). Operation Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), conducted under the Berlin Plus Arrangements, was discussed by the NATO and EU Military Committees as well as in the formal NAC-PSC meeting.

Dialogue between military staffs progressed, including through cross-briefings, addressing ongoing operations, rapid response forces (the EU Rapid Deployment Capacity and the NATO Allied Reaction Force), and countering hybrid threats. At senior level, cooperation was reinforced through cross-participation in each other’s Chiefs of Defence (CHOD) meetings, in particular on support to Ukraine.

The 24th biannual conference of the NATO IMS and the EUMS Directors-General took place in November 2025. An informal “Game Plan” continued to be updated to track progress on shared objectives and milestones.

Cooperation on maritime security deepened, including through the annual Staff Talks, cross-briefings and cross-participation in exercises and events. Discussions covered the EU naval operations IRINI, ASPIDES, ATALANTA, and the Coordinated Maritime Presences, as well as NATO activities, including the Standing Naval Forces, Operation Sea Guardian, the Aegean activity, and vigilance measures. Exchanges also addressed the protection of critical maritime and undersea infrastructure, and approaches to addressing the “shadow fleet.” In this context, the EU provided a briefing at NATO’s first Shadow Fleet Symposium and took part in the Annual Conference of the NATO Maritime Interdiction Operational Training Centre.

The 15th Robotic Experimentation and Prototyping Maritime Unmanned Systems (REPMUS) exercise, the world’s largest event for testing unmanned maritime systems, was co-organised by NATO and EDA, together with the Portuguese Navy, with participation of the EEAS and the European Commission. Furthermore, NATO participated as an observer in the EU Maritime Security Exercise EU MARSEC 25, hosted by the Italian Navy.

Cooperation between EUNAVFOR MED (European Union Naval Force – Mediterranean) Operation IRINI and NATO MARCOM (Allied Maritime Command) continued through the Shared Awareness and De-confliction in the Mediterranean (SHADE MED) mechanism, including the co-organisation of the 6th joint SHADE MED Conference. Informal exchanges between both organisations ensured flight safety during the NATO exercise DYNAMIC MANTA 26.

NATO’s activity in the Aegean Sea — supporting Greece, Türkiye, and FRONTEX— continued to contribute to efforts to counter irregular migration.

Exercises

Cooperation between NATO and EU contributed to enhanced mutual awareness and preparedness, particularly in the context of multidimensional hybrid threat scenarios.

The success of the Plan for Implementation of Parallel and Coordinated Exercises (PACE) in the 2024-2025 period led the EU and NATO to extend PACE for 2026-2027, with EU Integrated Resolve Exercise 2026 (EU IR26) and NATO’s Crisis Management Exercise 2027 (CMX27). Staffs from both organisations participated in respective planning stages of EU IR26 and CMX27.

The EUMS and NATO IMS held three staff-level workshops on exercises. Moreover, the NATO Joint Warfare Centre shared the 360° Multi-Domain Setting with the EUMS, thus enhancing overall interoperability and preparedness for the exercises.

Regarding NATO military exercises, EU staff participated in STEADFAST DUEL 2025, in STEADFAST DETERRENCE and STEADFAST DAGGER and was invited to the same series in 2026.

NATO staff participated as observer in the EU’s Table-Top Exercise in the Council Horizontal Working Party on Enhancing Resilience and Countering Hybrid Threats (HWP ERCHT) in November 2025.

Training

Staffs continued participation in education and training courses offered by the NATO School Oberammergau (NSO), NATO Defense College and the ESDC.

Defence and security capacity building

Staff consultations and cross-briefings continued, in Brussels and between NATO Liaison Offices and EU Delegations, on the political and security situation and assistance measures in eight partner countries - BiH, Georgia, Jordan, Iraq, Mauritania, the Republic of Moldova (hereafter Moldova), Tunisia, and Ukraine.

Military support to Ukraine focused on drones, ammunition, and air defence, including through procurement from and support to its domestic defence production. NATO facilitated the provision and the financing of critically important US defence systems, via the Prioritised Ukraine Requirements List (PURL) mechanism. The EU continued to provide necessary financial and military support, including through the agreed EUR 90 billion Ukraine Support Loan. Through the NATO Security Assistance and Training for Ukraine (NSATU), the Alliance continued to coordinate delivery of security assistance and training for Ukraine, in close cooperation with the EU Military Assistance Mission (EUMAM), the main training provider for the Ukrainian Armed Forces (with more than 90,000 personnel trained). The EU Delegation in Kyiv and the NATO Representation to Ukraine, as well as EUMAM and the EU Advisory Mission for Civilian Security Sector Reform to Ukraine (EUAM), cooperated closely in support of Ukraine's security and defence sector reforms.

The EU-NATO Staff Coordination Mechanism on Ukraine remained an essential platform for regular updates on respective lines of support such as military assistance, countering hybrid threats, cyber security and defence, sanctions, civil protection, energy security and support to veterans. Staffs also exchanged frequently on the assistance provided to Ukraine through the European Peace Facility (EPF) and NATO's Comprehensive Assistance Package (CAP).

For BiH, Georgia, Jordan, Mauritania, Moldova, and Tunisia, the annual Capacity Building Staff Talks remained the main forum for exchanges on topics such as resilience, air-defence, cybersecurity, strategic communications, maritime and border security, as well as training. Additional dedicated exchanges took place on de-confliction and synergy-building between the EPF and NATO's Defence Capacity Building (DCB) packages.

Regular engagements at all levels continued regarding the Western Balkans, including a joint visit of NATO and EU Chairs of Military Committees to the region. In addition, the EU Special Representative for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue briefed the NAC and engaged in regular talks with NATO staff. On the ground, close coordination continued between Operation Althea and the NATO presence in BiH, as well as between KFOR and EULEX. Moreover, both organisations continued exchanges on BiH, among others on crisis management, countering FIMI, as well as on non-lethal material support to the armed forces.

Regarding Moldova, staffs regularly exchanged on resilience, hybrid threats, as well as on coordinated delivery of training and equipment.

On Georgia, NATO and the EU maintained a regular dialogue, including on the implications of the political situation on their respective operations and projects. Additionally, the newly appointed NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Caucasus and Central Asia engaged with EU counterparts on issues related to the broader region.

Staffs further strengthened exchanges on the Southern Neighbourhood, continuing to exchange information, including through cross-briefings and cross-participation in international conferences, as well as engagements of the NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Southern Neighbourhood with EU counterparts.

Coordination between NMI and EUAM in Iraq remained robust, including through engagement in international coordination platforms.

With 23 common members as well as complementary roles, the EU-NATO strategic partnership remains indispensable for Euro-Atlantic deterrence and defence. In light of the current threats and challenges to international peace and stability, and with the sustained support by all NATO Allies and EU Member States, the two staffs will continue to strengthen and deepen the mutually beneficial NATO-EU cooperation.