

Defence & Statecraft

Programme

Activities in 2023



THE PROGRAMME

A range of crises over the past decades have conspired to challenge the security and defence of Europe and its allies. The **return of war to Europe** and the re-emergence of **great power competition** has given rise to questions about Europe's position in the world. The need for increased defence expenditure and military capabilities in the West has never been more urgent and allies and partners, the European Union and NATO are rising to these challenges through innovative policies and investments.

the transatlantic relationship is undergoing change with questions about Sino-American competition and the Indo-Pacific directly affecting defence policy in Europe.

On top of this, the **control and use of technology** has become a hallmark of statecraft and disruptive technologies have the potential to up-end geopolitics and the global balance of power. Finally, the intersection of conventional and

unconventional threats means that Europe and its partners must create effective responses to hybrid threats, cyberdefence, outer space and the maritime domain.

Seeking to address such challenges, the **Defence & Statecraft Programme** at the **Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS)** aims to become a leading research and policy hub for analysis and engagement on defence, geopolitics and technology. By drawing on its wealth of academic expertise and its extensive policy networks in Brussels and beyond, the Programme will engage with research through policy- and scholarly-relevant analysis, provide a policy platform and leverage its location in Brussels to analyse defence, geopolitics and technology, lead on projects that help shape policy thinking in Brussels and work with global partners on common strategic projects of interest.

This report outlines the activities of the Defence & Statecraft Programme in 2023.

THE TEAM



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PUBLICATIONS

2023 was a productive year for publications. The Defence & Statecraft Programme saw the production of **over 25 publications** in leading peer-reviewed journals and policy journals. In academic journals, the programme saw the publication of:

**In Every Crisis an Opportunity?
European Union Integration in Defence
and the War on Ukraine**

Daniel Fiott, Journal of European Integration
2 May 2023

**Strategic Competition: Toward a
Genuine Step-Change for Europe's
Defence Industry?**

Daniel Fiott, Economics of Peace and Security
Journal – 17 Apr 2023

**Europe and the South: the Maritime
Dimension**

Daniel Fiott, Confluences Méditerranée
5 Jan 2023

Researchers in the programme also contributed to policy debates about the war on Ukraine, Chinese statecraft, economic security, technology and European defence through CSDS Policy Briefs, including:

**Defence Matters: Ten Years of European
Defence and What has Really Been
Achieved?**

Daniel Fiott – 20 Dec 2023

**Purchasing Power: Towards Joint
Procurement and Planning in European
Defence?**

Daniel Fiott – 22 Sep 2023

**Virtual Worlds: Balancing European
Regulation and Industrial Policy for the
Metaverse**

Antonio Calcara – 4 Sep 2023

In Orbit: The European Union, Defence and Space Domain Awareness

Daniel Fiott – 7 Jul 2023

Votes, Vetoes, Values: Foreign Interference, QMV and EU Foreign Policy in a Competitive Age

Daniel Fiott/Giulia Tercovich – 4 Jul 2023

No Ordinary Arms Deal: Is Europe Learning Anything from AUKUS?

Lotje Boswinkel/Luis Simón – 28 Jun 2023

Disorder: the War and Russia's Economic Statecraft

Daniel Fiott et al. – 2 May 2023

Counter-order: Chinese Power, the West and Geo-economics

Daniel Fiott et al. – 26 Apr 2023

Order: the Financing of Alliances and Western Power

Daniel Fiott et al. – 21 Apr 2023

Taking Stock: Europe's Rearmament, One Year On

Lotje Boswinkel – 21 Apr 2023

One Step Back, Two Steps Forward: the EU, NATO and Emerging and Disruptive Technologies

Antonio Calcara – 21 Apr 2023

Annus Horribilis: Russia's War, Ukraine's Struggle, Europe's Future

Daniel Fiott – 24 Feb 2023

The programme has also benefitted from the expertise of external experts, who have written for CSDS on topics related to the European defence industry, strategic autonomy and :

Resilience and Reassurance: Towards a Role for the EU in Deterrence?

Gesine Weber – 24 Nov 2023

Beyond Fragmentation? Mapping the European Defence Industry in an Era of Strategic Flux

Lucie Béraud-Sudreau/Lorenzo Scarazzato – 5 Jul 2023

Additionally, researchers in the Defence & Statecraft Programme have contributed to a range of commissioned studies by EU institutions and leading think tanks, including:

EU Defence After Versailles: An Agenda for the Future

Daniel Fiott/Luis Simón – 18 Oct 2023

Two Fronts, One Goal: Euro-Atlantic Security in the Indo-Pacific Age

Luis Simón/Daniel Fiott/Octavian Manea
28 Aug 2023

Qualified Majority Voting in Common Foreign and Security Policy – A Cost of Non-Europe Report

Daniel Fiott/Giulia Tercovich – 28 Aug 2023

OUTREACH

Researchers in the programme have continuously sought to influence the **public debate** with opinion and commentary pieces. Researchers have written for the EU Military Committee, Internationale Politik Quarterly, Italian Institute for Political Science, National Institute of Defence of Portugal, Política Exterior and the Real Instituto Elcano. They have also appeared in **media** such as Breaking Defence, Defence News, Euronews, Science Business and the Wall Street Journal.

Defence & Statecraft Programme researchers also contributed to **panel discussions** organised by Business Bridge Europe, European External Action Service, European Parliament, European Parliamentary Research Service, European Security and Defence College, Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Guarda Nacional Republicana and the Keio Center for Strategy, among many others.

EVENTS

Under the auspices of the Defence & Statecraft Programme, researchers organised a number of public events during 2023, including our flagship event the “Defence & Statecraft Forum”. We are proud to have organised these events with close partners. The events organised in 2023 include:

Fair and Free, but How Secure? Foreign Interference and Elections

CSDS/US Mission to the EU/Taiwan
9 Nov 2023

Transatlantic Defence in an Era of Strategic Competition: Is NATO Ready for an Era of Rivalry?

CSDS/CSIS – 27 Oct 2023

Transatlantic Defence in an Era of Strategic Competition: A Steadfast and Resilient Alliance?

CSDS/CSIS – 19 Jun 2023

Defence & Statecraft Forum

CSDS – 27 Apr 2023

The Military Balance of Power in Europe

CSDS/IISS/Egmont Institute – 28 Mar 2023

NATO’s New Force Model: Operationalising Collective Defence

CSDS/Egmont Institute – 7 Mar 2023

Order, Counter-Order, Disorder? Regional and Global Security Orders in the Shadow of Sino-American Competition

CSDS/US Military Academy – 9 Feb 2023

PROJECTS & PARTNERS

The Defence & Statecraft Programme was pleased to cooperate with **NATO’s Public Diplomacy Division** and the **Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)** on a year-long project entitled **Transatlantic Defence in an Era of Strategic Competition (TIDE)**. The TIDE

project saw the organisation of two public events in Brussels and Washington. The aim was bring key communities across the Euro-Atlantic region to discuss NATO in the context of the Vilnius Summit.

CSDS was also extremely grateful to receive **financial support** from the European Parliament for two in-depth studies focusing on EU defence after the Versailles Summit and Qualified Majority Voting in the EU’s Common Foreign and Security Policy.

The Defence & Statecraft Programme strengthened its **partnerships** during the year. We would like to thank the support from and cooperation with Athena, CSIS, Egmont – Royal Institute for International Relations, European Parliament, NATO, Royal Military Academy of Belgium, Taiwan and the US Mission to the EU.

CONTACT

To learn more about our work, visit our website:

<https://csds.vub.be/program/defence-and-statecraft/>.

For opportunities to partner, support and cooperate with the Defence & Statecraft Programme, please contact the head of the programme:

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