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## **Inter-Parliamentary Conference for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)** **15-17 February 2018, Sofia**

### **Background information**

#### **Session I: Priorities and Strategies of the EU in the Area of CFSP and CSDP**

The European Union faces uncertainty, numerous challenges and on-going conflicts. To the South, instability and fragility persist while, to the East, the European security order continues to be violated. The EU is also confronted with threats such as terrorism, hybrid threats, cyber-attacks, organised crime as well as challenges such as irregular migration and human trafficking. The European Union will continue to address these issues with determination under the leadership of High Representative/Vice-President Mogherini and in close cooperation with Member States and partner countries. The EU continues to stand for its values, with multilateralism as its key principle and the United Nations at its core, and to actively promote a rules-based global order and respect for Human Rights. The EU is guided by the Global Strategy on the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy, which was presented to the European Council by the HR/VP in June 2016.

The EU Global strategy is a “global” rather than an exclusively “security” strategy providing a coherent perspective for the EU’s external action as a whole. Security and defence are essential components for a credible EU role in the world only when they are deployed alongside other external policies – such as enlargement, development and trade – or policies with external aspects, including on migration, energy, climate, environment, culture.

There has been a remarkable progress in the area of security and defence where more has been achieved in the last year than in the last decade. The implementation of the Global Strategy in the area of security and defence will continue to be a priority.

Strengthening resilience of states and societies in the EU neighbourhood and further is also a major strand of the EUGS where the EU has engaged with governments and institutions as well as with civil society organisations and private actors.





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Increased attention was given to action across the whole conflict cycle beyond mere crisis management from conflict prevention to post-conflict peace building. The Integrated Approach to conflicts and crises builds on and succeeds the Comprehensive Approach. It takes stock of the best practices already in place and entails a multifaceted action involving various policies and instruments, levels and players.

The implementation of the EUGS has also triggered the transformation of the EU method of work and the way in which the EU does foreign policy in all the work strands of the EUGS. The notion of a joined-up Union has been applied across policy sectors, institutions and Member States yielding results in a number of areas and initiatives such as CSDP, climate, energy, oceans governance and economic diplomacies, culture in international relations, youth initiatives and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

Another priority of the EUGS relates to the internal-external nexus meaning that internal and external initiatives within the same policy domain must be coherent and mutually reinforcing. The approach has been reflected in the new European Consensus on Development, in the short, medium and long-term measures put in place by the EU to tackle migration and its root causes, in the EU action on counter-terrorism and on cyber security.

Given the importance of communicating the added-value of EU's action together with opening of channels for European and non-European citizens to engage with EU policy-making, a renewed emphasis was put on public diplomacy. Further efforts were invested in existing dialogue initiatives and in creating new opportunities for young people.

Effective delivery on the ambitious commitments undertaken in the first year of the Global Strategy should continue, notably to finalise the work on Security and Defence, in line with the European Council conclusions of June 2017; to implement the EU's approach on Resilience, as per the Joint Communication of June 2017; to operationalise the work initiated under the Integrated Approach to Conflict and Crises; to further strengthen the coherence between internal and external policies on migration and counterterrorism, as well as to step up efforts to promote a more joined-up public diplomacy.