

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE EU FOREIGN POLICY CHIEF: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

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Carnegie Europe spearheaded a review process to assess the European Union's foreign policies. Drawing on consultations with experts from around the world, this memo proposes a new strategy for turning Europe into a more effective international actor.

1) **Improve the EU's ability to act autonomously.**

The strategic demand for a more active EU may grow. The EU's security depends on the United States, a situation that has encouraged a culture of dependency. Continuing along this path would be risky as the United States is less willing to subsidize European security than in the past and the EU's neighborhood is becoming a much more dangerous place. As a result, the EU needs a keener awareness of its precarious strategic position, a sober threat assessment by the 28 EU governments, and investment in a wide range of security capabilities, both military and nonmilitary. Increased EU strategic autonomy in the extended neighborhood will make Europeans not only less dependent on U.S. services but also more attractive and influential in Washington. The transatlantic glue remains, but to ensure that it continues to stick, the future of NATO will depend on Europeans' ability to get their act together.

2) **Invest in EU capabilities.** The shortfalls in European military capabilities, which are almost entirely held nationally, are well known. The European Defense Agency and other EU bodies and institutions, such as the European Commission, should continue to press EU governments to pool and share their defense equipment spending and open up their defense markets. In addition, the EU should develop some capabilities of its own, in particular stronger early-warning capacities for spotting pending security crises that may require EU responses.

3) **Develop security-sector reform into a trademark EU contribution.** The EU is already an active contributor to international security-sector reform in the broad sense—including police, judicial, and military reform and training, along with law enforcement and border assistance. Most of the missions carried out through the EU's Common Security and Defense Policy have been civilian security operations. This approach

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is correct and will continue to be a comparative advantage of the EU, but it needs to be backed up with many more resources and much greater commitment. The EU should push member states to provide more civilian personnel for operations and devote more development spending to security assistance. In addition, the EU should invest more in conflict prevention and mediation.

- 4) **Focus security resources on the broad neighborhood.** Because of finite resources, the EU has to have a “selective ambition” and should focus most of its international security efforts on its broad neighborhood. This large area combines fragile states and crossborder security challenges such as maritime security and terrorism with increasingly multipolar geopolitics. All other major powers including China, India, Russia, and the United States also have stakes in this area. A key characteristic throughout the extended neighborhood is the challenge of state fragility. Across the Brussels institutions, the EU should build on its existing efforts and make state building in the neighborhood a strategic priority. But the EU must be careful in selecting which states its supports and why.

For instance, the military regime in Egypt may not be as deserving of EU security-sector reform assistance as Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, or Libya might be.

- 5) **Make cybersecurity a priority.** The EU has a major stake in and role to play on global security challenges, such as maritime security and the potential security impact of climate change. But cybersecurity deserves particular attention since it will bring about a revolution in security thinking. Protecting the globally integrated information infrastructure from intrusion and disruption will bring together homeland security authorities, the military, and the private sector in a hitherto unknown alliance. Because of the EU’s deep collaboration with the various national ministries invested in protecting cybernetworks, the union is better suited than any other international organization to develop and implement a proactive crossborder strategy for this part of the global commons. The EU foreign policy chief should dedicate considerable internal resources to staying on top of this fast-developing area and to becoming a valuable resource for EU member states.

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