

Civilian Common Security and Defence Policy: EU strengthens its capacities to act

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Defence cooperation: Council launches 17 new PESCO projects

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EU countries join forces to face global threats

The Council adopted an updated list of projects to be undertaken under PESCO. There will be **17 new projects** in addition to the initial 17 projects agreed on 11 December 2017 and formally adopted on 6 March 2018.

The projects cover areas such as training, capability development and operational readiness on land, at sea and in the air, as well as cyber-

defence.

Background

On 11 December 2017, the Council adopted a decision establishing Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO). PESCO enables EU member states to **work more closely together in the area of security and defence**. This permanent framework for defence cooperation allows willing and able member states to develop jointly defence capabilities, invest in shared projects, and enhance the operational readiness and contribution of their armed forces.

The 25 member states participating in PESCO are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain and Sweden.

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[Water diplomacy: Council adopts conclusions](#)

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On 19 November 2019, the Council adopted conclusions on water diplomacy. The Council recalls that **water is a prerequisite for human survival and dignity** and a fundamental basis for the resilience of both societies and the environment. Water is vital for human nutrition and health, and essential for ecosystem management, agriculture, energy and overall planetary security.

The Council notes the **potential of water scarcity to affect peace and security**, as water related risks can have grave human and economic costs, all of which can have direct implications for the EU, including through migration flows. The Council intends to **enhance EU diplomatic engagement about water** as a tool for peace, security and stability, and firmly condemns the use of water as a weapon of war. The Council also underlines the EU's commitment to promoting transboundary and integrated water management as well as effective water governance.

The Council reaffirms the **EU's commitment to the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation**, as components of the right to an adequate standard of living. It underlines the EU's strong commitment to the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda and highlights that progress on Goal 6 ("Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all") is essential for the achievement of other Sustainable Development Goals.

The Council stresses the essential link between water and climate change, and welcomes recent discussions at the UN Security Council **linking water, climate, peace and security**. The EU confirms its continued commitment to address water challenges around the world and to give the necessary consideration to the importance of water and sanitation in the programming of future financial and technical cooperation with partner countries.

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