



## Background Note: Ukraine and European Security and Defence

### Ukraine

Ukraine's security is Europe's security. Today, Ukraine stands in the front line in the defense of European values and, most importantly, its own sovereignty. The Russian invasion of Ukraine is in violation of international law and a threat to peace in Europe. If borders can be changed by force, peace and security worldwide are undermined. The EU and its member states fully support Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The geopolitical development underscores that Europe must do more in defense of Ukraine. European support is provided through several channels, including:

- **Military support:** EU member states, with support from the EU, contribute weapons, equipment, training, intelligence, etc., with an estimated total value of €50.3 billion to the Ukrainian defense.
- **Economic support through Team Europe:** The Ukrainian economy and state finances are naturally under pressure due to the war. The EU and its member states have provided a total of €77 billion in support to Ukraine, including macro-financial assistance.
- **Long-term support for the reconstruction of Ukraine.** At the same time, the EU and other European countries maintain pressure on Russia through sanctions. The EU has currently adopted 17 sanction packages as a result of the illegal annexation of Crimea, the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, and the illegal annexation of the Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson regions in Ukraine.

Ukrainian membership of the EU constitutes another track in support of Ukraine. Ukraine has a clear and explicit desire for EU membership and is continuously making significant progress in implementing the necessary reforms.

### Questions for consideration in connection with the discussion at the COSAC Chairpersons' meeting:

- How can the EU and its member states do more to support Ukraine in the short and long term?



- What additional measures should be considered in terms of sanctions against Russia and military and civil support to Ukraine?
- Is there more the EU and its member states can do to support Ukraine's ambition to become an EU member?
- How can the EU and its member states contribute to strengthening Ukrainian and international civil society organizations and NGOs in their efforts to rebuild Ukraine and support Ukraine's ambition to become a member of the EU?
- How can it be ensured that the EU and its member states deliver the 2 million pieces of artillery ammunition that the EU and its member states have promised Ukraine by the end of 2025?

### Building Europe's Defence

While a central part of Europe's defence in the short term is through support to Ukraine, it is also clear that the EU and its member states must do more to strengthen European defence. The Niinistö report clearly indicates that the EU and its member states must increase their defence readiness. With the Commission's White Paper on European Defence Readiness 2030 (JOIN (2025)120), the Commission has set the overall direction for the work in the coming years.

Overall, there are two tracks:

- **An increase in member states' defence capabilities:** It is now abundantly clear that it is necessary for member states to significantly increase their defence capabilities in line with their other alliance commitments, particularly NATO's capability targets. Support for Ukraine has heavily drawn on European weapons stocks and simultaneously revealed how modern warfare is conducted.
- **An improvement of the EU's defence industrial base:** In order to meet the demand from Ukraine and member states, it is necessary to increase the European – including Ukrainian – defence industry's ability to meet European needs. This requires further development of the European defence industrial base and an improvement in the security of supply.

In the long term, the two tracks are mutually reinforcing: An improved defence industrial base will enhance member states' ability to acquire the necessary capabilities. But in the short term, it also presents dilemmas: Should



European defence capabilities be purchased to strengthen the defence industrial base, even if it may delay the necessary rearmament in the short term?

**Questions for consideration in connection with the discussion at the COSAC Chairpersons' meeting:**

- How can the EU assist in the necessary rearmament in the member states?
- How can cooperation between the EU, its member states, and Ukraine be improved in the defence industrial area so that the European defence industry is better able to meet European, including Ukrainian, demand?
- What can the EU, its member states, and the defence industry learn from the Russian invasion of Ukraine?
- Should the priority be to purchase European defence capabilities to strengthen the European defence industry in the long term, or should the speed of European rearmament be prioritized?