

TO BE READY

2023 EU CAPABILITY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

The EU Capability Development Plan is the central reference for defence planning in the EU and the baseline for all European defence-related initiatives, such as the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD), Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), the European Defence Fund (EDF), and any future EU Defence supporting tools. In line with the Strategic Compass, the revised EU Capability Development Priorities shall also serve as a prime reference for national planning. They answer a simple question: which capabilities should EU Member States focus on together to be ready for the future?

Since 2008, the European Defence Agency has been regularly updating the CDP in close cooperation with its Member States and with the contributions of the EU Military Committee supported by the EU Military Staff. **The 2023 review results in 14 priorities across the five military domains, and a further 8 priorities categorised under strategic enablers and force multipliers.**

The 2023 EU Capability Development Priorities are concise and impactful, covering the full spectrum of European military capability across all operational domains. They have been further outlined into 69 key areas which will have an impact over the short, the medium and the long term.

2023 EU Capability Development Priorities



LAND

- › Ground Combat Capabilities
- › Land Based Precision Engagement
- › Future Soldier Systems



AIR

- › Air Combat Platforms & Weapons
- › Airborne Command & Inform Capabilities
- › Integrated Air & Missile Defence
- › Air Transport



MARITIME

- › Naval Combat & Maritime Interdiction
- › Underwater & Seabed Warfare
- › Maritime Domain Awareness



SPACE

- › Space Operations
- › Space Services



CYBER

- › Full Spectrum Cyber Defence Operations Capabilities
- › Cyber Warfare Advantage & Readiness



STRATEGIC ENABLERS & FORCE MULTIPLIERS

- › Electro Magnetic Spectrum Operations (EMSO) Dominance
- › Persistent & Resilient C4ISTAR
- › Military Mobility
- › Critical Infrastructure Protection & Energy Security
- › Sustainable and Agile Logistics
- › Medical Support
- › Chemical, Biological, Radiological & Nuclear (CBRN) Defence
- › Cohesive & Well-Trained Militaries

Building the CDP

The 2023 EU Capability Development Priorities reflect the changes in the EU's strategic environment and the political guidance provided by the Strategic Compass.

They are the outcome of an in-depth assessment of short, medium and long-term capability trend analysis. They are derived using four different strands of inputs, which take into account the CSDP military capability shortfalls, long-term capability and technological trends, Member States' defence plans, and lessons learned from CSDP missions and operations.

These priorities cover the full spectrum of capabilities and operations. They naturally incorporate CSDP missions and operations, including the Rapid Deployment Capacity's requirements, but they also cover a much wider scope and encompass high-intensity operations.

The lessons observed in the context of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine are also duly reflected. At the same time, the revised priorities also look to future threats over the medium and long-term time horizon, as we must not just look to the present but cooperate on developing high-end and innovative capabilities for the future.

They are also coherent with NATO and in line with the single set of forces principal Member States will be able to use these capabilities either nationally or multinationally, within the EU, for NATO collective defence, UN operations, or any other framework.

Implementing the CDP

The 2023 EU Capability Development Priorities are output oriented and cover a broader operational perspective and often a wide spectrum of tools beyond the military realm narrowly defined along equipment and platforms. Acknowledging the complex and interdependent nature of capability development, this CDP revision underscores the key importance of strategic enablers and the appropriate mix between the qualitative and the quantitative dimensions, thus linking with the industrial dimension.

CARD supports the operationalisation of the CDP by reviewing Member States' implementation of the 2023 EU Capability Development Priorities. CARD offers a forum to discuss national intents with respect to implementation as well as acting as a pathfinder in helping to identify opportunities for cooperation.

In support of this CDP revision, the coherence between capability, R&T and industrial domains will be reinforced through the revision of the two additional prioritisation tools managed by EDA, the Overarching Strategic Research Agenda and the Key Strategic Activities, which will ensure alignment.

By maturing projects that implement the 2023 CDP priorities, Member States will develop the necessary capabilities for the EU to act as a capable security provider and contribute to the defence of the European security order.

2023 CDP WAY FORWARD

