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Die
Bundesregierung



Rzeczpospolita Polska

Her Excellency
Ms. Federica MOGHERINI
High Representative of the Union
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Council of the European Union

Paris/Berlin/Warsaw, 30 March 2015

Dear High Representative,

As today's global security environment calls for a stronger Europe, the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) needs to be further strengthened, for it lies at the heart of EU's foreign policy. We warmly welcome your determination to reinforce this crucial dimension of the EU's external action. Our countries will support your efforts to make European security and defence more ambitious, credible, and concrete.

In December 2013, the European Council declared that "defence matters" and approved a list of tasks to revitalize CSDP. Since 2013, good progress has been made, e.g. with the adoption of the EU Maritime Security Strategy, a revised EU Sahel Strategy, the EU Cyber Defence Policy Framework, the Policy Framework for Systematic and Long-term Defence Cooperation and the Council conclusions on the EU's Comprehensive Approach. In addition, four more CSDP missions and operations have been launched, in the Central African Republic, Mali, and Ukraine. First steps have also been taken on defence capabilities development projects within the framework of the European Defence Agency (EDA).

On 25 and 26 June 2015, the European Council will assess the progress made since December 2013 and provide further guidance. It will provide an opportunity to re-confirm the determination of Member States to strengthen each of the three clusters of CSDP identified since 2012 (increasing the effectiveness, visibility and impact of CSDP; enhancing the development of capabilities; strengthening Europe's defence industry), in accordance with their commitments reflected in the conclusions of the European Council of December 2013.

Today, the EU finds itself surrounded by a ring of insecurity with crises both East and South of its frontiers. Russia's actions to destabilize Ukraine and the illegal annexation of Crimea pose a direct challenge to European security, based on such fundamental principles as the sovereignty of states and integrity of borders. At the same time, Europe's security is affected by the on-going war in Iraq and in Syria as well as the rise of *Daesh* in the Middle-East, an increasingly unstable North Africa, with Libya being the most worrying development, the activities of terrorist armed groups in the Sahel-Sahara region and in the region of Northern Nigeria, as well as the continued challenges in Central and Eastern Africa, and in Afghanistan. These developments reinforce the need for a stronger and more efficient CSDP, capable of contributing to our own security and of shaping security outside our borders. Ensuring peace and stability in our neighbourhood is intertwined with our internal security and the safety of our citizens, which are today dramatically challenged, as was demonstrated by the recent terrorist attacks in Paris, Copenhagen and Tunis.

Our commitment to European security requires a new coherence of EU and Member States' interests, policy, and action, as our strategic priorities have evolved beyond our traditional areas of concern. Your analysis of the EU's strategic environment and resulting challenges and opportunities for the Union ahead of the June European Council is much needed and will be important for guiding the development of CSDP. This report should take into account the recent changes of our security environment. We are ready to contribute with our ideas to this process, which could also benefit from the input of European think tanks. It should pave the way, under your leadership, to the elaboration of a new foreign and security policy strategy for the EU, highlighting CSDP's central role.

France, Germany, and Poland would also like to recall the need for more efficient and stronger European crisis management structures, as part of the EEAS review.

NATO has recognized, at the Wales Summit, the importance of increasing the readiness and the responsiveness of the Alliance and of a stronger and more capable European defence. Whilst ensuring transatlantic coherence and solidarity, we will have to reinforce the readiness of European Member States' military capabilities, enhance European capacity to act as a first responder, and make the EU a more credible security provider. As CSDP relies on adequate budgets, European investment in security and defence must be increased, pooling and sharing arrangements intensified and related capability programmes further developed.

In preparation of the June 2015 European Council, France, Germany, and Poland would like to present common ideas to be further elaborated in the next months with the aim of strengthening CSDP. You will find attached some of our views and proposals under each cluster of the conclusions adopted by the European Council in December 2013. We consider all three clusters to be equally important and interrelated.

France, Germany, and Poland are determined to support substantial conclusions in June, in order to help further develop CSDP as an essential element of the EU's comprehensive approach to security challenges and pursue the process that the December 2013 European Council has initiated, guided by ambitious yet realistic goals for the way forward.

We provide copies of this letter to our colleagues.

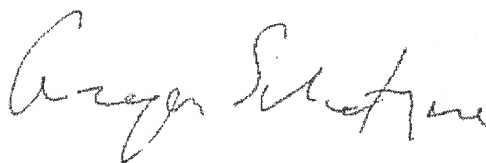
Yours sincerely,



Laurent Fabius
Ministre des Affaires étrangères
et du Développement international



Dr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier
Bundesminister des Auswärtigen



Grzegorz Schetyna
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