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**MAKING EU DEFENCE POLICY FIT TO ENSURE REGIONAL SECURITY:  
DEMANDS OF DEFENCE TRADE UNIONS IN EUROPE**

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**POSITION OF CESI'S EXPERT  
COMMISSION 'DEFENCE'**

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*The European Confederation of Independent Trade Unions (CESI) is a confederation of more than 40 national and European trade union organisations from over 20 European countries, with a total of more than 5 million individual members. Founded in 1990, CESI advocates improved employment conditions for workers in Europe and a strong social dimension in the EU. CESI represents public and private sector workers and is a recognised European sectoral social partner. CESI also represents defence sector trade unions from across Europe.*

**The Russian invasion of Ukraine has highlighted the need to reinforce a strong and united European defence policy** which can ensure regional stability and security.

As such, **previous steps of the EU for an integrated defence policy** – the establishment of a European Defence Fund (EDF), a Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and a Strategic Compass – **need to be re-evaluated, adjusted and complemented**.

The 2022 Strategic Compass, a joint threat assessment for all 27 Member States, proposes to:

- 'Act' by delivering the EU Rapid Deployment Capacity, a multinational taskforce of approx. 5000 troops by the end of 2023.
- 'Secure' peace and stability of EU citizens by anticipating threats but also by developing ways to mitigate them across all spectrums of war, space, maritime or cyber activities. Examples include an enhanced EU cyber defence policy and improved intelligence sharing and joint situational awareness.
- 'Invest' by increasing Member States' defence expenditure to expand their industrial base.
- 'Partner' by building more partnerships with like-minded countries and strategic partners such as NATO, the USA, Canada, Norway, the UK and Japan.

CESI's Expert Commission 'Defence' demands:

1. **sufficient levels of modern equipment and armament for all military and civilian armed forces in the EU.** The success of EU defence initiatives will depend on the willingness of Member States to invest.
2. **increased cooperation between Member States in the development of EU defence capabilities** to enhance the EU's regional power and influence. The strength of EU defence initiatives will depend on the willingness of Member States to cooperate in their defence capabilities.
3. **adequate spending and measures to address lacking staff and training of personnel in the armed forces.** The military and civilian armies of most EU Member States face unacceptable personnel shortfalls. Crucially necessary training and further training is not always available.
4. **fair working conditions for civilian and military staff that will be deployed under the new EU Rapid Deployment Capacity.** Past EU military operations have shown that working conditions must be specifically taken into account.
5. **better information and consultation of military staff and their representatives in the decision-making processes of the European Defence Union (EDU).** Military staff and their representatives often know best what operational and functioning shortcomings exist and how they can be remedied to the benefit of all involved actors.
6. **an even further enhanced cooperation between the EU and the UN, NATO and OSCE as well as countries such as the USA and the UK** to support the EU to become an effective regional defence and security power. The steps proposed in the Strategic Compass to strengthen partnerships and build alliances need to be developed and rigorously pursued. For this to happen Member States need to leave aside national interests and to pledge more support for the European Defence Union (EDU).
7. **more global unity against the war** to put an end to the Russian invasion. The imposition of economic sanctions by the EU against Russia have had a significant impact on the Russian economy. However, the effectiveness of these measures suffers since there are still important global partners making business with Russia. The aim to make Russia unable to fund the war has not been achieved. More countries and economic partners should join the EU in making this war impossible to maintain economically.