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## **EU–India Security and Defence Cooperation in the Twenty First Century: Challenges and Prospects**

- Dr. Arvind Kumar, Professor and Head, Department of Geopolitics and International Relations, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal
- Dr. Malgorzata Bonikowska, President, Centre for International Relations, Warsaw

The European Union (EU) over the years got transformed and reflects a good case study of Unity in diversity. India has also shown its maturity in reflecting its diversity in an integrated and united manner. Hence, the EU and India have shown similarities in managing the diversity. The EU is also in the process of churning its internal contradictions and looking for a reliable, responsible and trustworthy partner and hence the EU has shown a deeper connection to work with India on a number of pertinent important areas including security and defence. There are lot of convergences between the EU and India on security and defence related issues. There is certainly a need to intensify all their bilateral efforts in creating a win-win situation and usher into a positive era in EU-India strategic engagement.

In 2004, when the EU-India strategic partnership was signed, both the sides were confident that there was space for mutual actions and projects. Few years later this conviction was fading as both sides faced new challenges and internal issues. During 13<sup>th</sup> European Union-India Summit held in March 2016 at Brussels, both had endorsed the EU-India Agenda for Action 2020 as a common roadmap to jointly guide and strengthen the India-EU strategic partnership. The security and defence cooperation between the EU and India has gained salience especially in the current context. It would be important and significant to identify the areas of bilateral cooperation between the EU and India.

The assessment on threat perceptions of the EU and India would help understand the common elements and how the EU and India cooperation in the areas of security and defence would usher into a new phase in the changing dynamics of geopolitics. In recent times, both the EU and India have witnessed convergences on a number of security issues where the mutual cooperation will be beneficial and boost the bilateral ties.



India and the EU had organised military-to-military dialogue to expand maritime security partnership in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), which will be vital for the protection of their trade and economic interests. What advantages EU and India will have by upgrading military partnership will form a major part of the analysis. A modest attempt will be made to assess the probable bilateral cooperation between EU and India in the field of security and defence.

### **EU Perspective**

The EU is largely viewed as a cornerstone of European stability and prosperity. It has grown from a common market to a common currency and from a community to a Union. The EU member states decided to build a distinct partnership and pool a part of their sovereignty to this hybrid structure. Therefore, the UE has founded its common institutions and policies, general budget. Today, not only the member states but also the EU are represented in G20 or during the ASEM meetings. However, sovereign legitimacy in security area remains in the national capitals. The efforts made in evolving a Common Europe Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) had conflicting perspective and until recently remained a vision more than reality.

For several decades Europe was able to slowly integrate its markets and policies without touching the security domain. It was possible thanks to the American presence in Europe after the WWII and the guaranties given to the old continent. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 the West decided to unite deeper, implement the common currency and open for the Eastern part of the continent. The West thought it was the “end of history”, the future looked brilliant and NATO seemed not needed anymore. In 2003, in the document prepared by Javier Solana and his team of the first EU Global Security Strategy, the preamble announced that Europe was never safer and less in danger.

Over a decade later, in 2016, the European Global Strategy prepared by the team of Federica Mogherini, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs, sounded totally differently. European have realised that the political environment around the EU had changed completely in a very short time. In 2008, Russia invaded Georgian and in 2011 started a hybrid war in Ukraine. The Arab Spring turned the regimes of Northern Africa upside down and in 2012 the



“ring of friends” on the south changed into a “ring of fire”. The war in Syria has started pushing millions of people to run away mostly to Europe.

In 2016, Europe started to realize, that its firm relation with the USA, which has been the base of the Western relations since the WWII, started weakening. The new President Donald Trump has turned his back on the Trans-Atlantic Alliance, criticised the EU for lack of realistic approach to the security and urged its European partners to increase funding to NATO. Once he hesitated about the use of article seven of the Treaty, the Europeans started to worry, as the US remains a crucial contributor to Europe’s security both through NATO as well as an independent actor. The supporters of CSDP, especially the French, have always argued in favour of a military force to pursue military goals or defend military targets that are purely European and may have no strategic priority to the Americans. Nowadays, these discussions led towards the concept of “strategic autonomy” from the US. The recent comment of the French President Emmanuel Macron that NATO is facing “brain death” initiated large criticism but also reflected serious worries in understanding the emerging dynamics of geopolitics.

With the new term starting at the end of 2019, the EU institutions have to concentrate on new challenges and security lies top on the list. Also because the citizens of Europe address this issue to the EU as the top priority. The agenda should be ambitious but also realistic. Europeans valued technical, military and intelligence cooperation with the US above than any other American contribution including troop deployments on European soil. The EU also placed high importance on political, technological and practical cooperation with the US. In the changing dynamics, the US new approach to European Security under the Trump Administration, the viability of EU-US security cooperation is being debated. The US security guarantee for NATO allies is under scanner because of Trump’s approach to its allies. There are divisions within the EU especially in continuing with the US on security cooperation. Around 13 EU Member States would be willing to make unspecified concessions to ensure that the US remained in Europe. A sizeable number of EU Member States advocate pushing firmly for defence and security integration in the EU. 16 Member States favour upgrading and updating national defence capabilities by increasing spending.



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Hence, the EU Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy (EUGS) emphasised on closer cooperation among Member States in the areas of defence. They agreed to intensify efforts in developing defence capabilities by increasing investment and enhancing coordination among themselves. This perhaps has been the main aim of the Permanent Structured Cooperation on Security and defence (PESCO). The Member States increase their effectiveness in addressing security challenges and advancing towards further integrating and strengthening defence cooperation within the EU framework. PESCO is a Treaty-based framework and through this, the process has been set to deepen defence cooperation amongst EU Member States. The main objective has been to jointly develop defence capabilities and make them available for EU military operations. Whether such action will enhance the EU's capacity as an international security actor and maximise the effectiveness of defence spending remain a part of discourse?

The activation of PESCO is undoubtedly a welcoming step. The decision to participate in PESCO has been made voluntarily by each participating Member State and decision making will remain in the hands of the participating Member States in the Council. So far, a total of 25 Member States have become a part of PESCO. There have been a number of PESCO projects undergoing including the projects in the areas of capability development and in the operational dimension ranging from the establishment of European Medical Command, an EU Training Mission Competence Centre, Cyber Rapid Response Teams, Mutual Assistance in Cyber Security, Military Disaster Relief, an upgrade of Maritime Surveillance, creation of an European Military Space Surveillance Awareness Network, a joint EU Intelligence School, specialised Helicopter Training as well as co-basing, which would allow the joint use of national and overseas bases. These are very vital projects for the maintenance of the participating states' national security.

It must be emphasised here that these projects are largely based on the articulation of Member States threat perceptions. The EU and its Member States face several new and complex security threats. Hence, there is a need for further synergies and closer cooperation at all levels. EU's ability to deal with multiple internal and external challenges remain complicated because the security of the European Union is being challenged like never before. The central tenets of the international system that Europeans help build are eroding or even disintegrating one-by-one.

The Great power competition is increasingly shaping Europe's security environment and the new challenges are also on the rise. Among the top ten threats for the European one can name the following:

1. Cyberattacks;
2. Meddling in domestic politics: information war (disinformation, fake news etc.)
3. Uncontrolled Migration
4. Terrorism;
5. External Interventions (military, hybrid wars)
6. State Collapse or Civil War in the EU's neighbourhood;
7. Threats Emanating from Maritime Domain
8. Disintegration and weakening of Europe (and the West)
9. Deterioration of the International Institutional Order

The threat perception is different in different EU member states. While the Western part is afraid of terrorism and economic stagnation, the Baltic States and Poland worry the most about Russia's assertive foreign politics – not only military but also cyber attacks and information warfare.

The EU faces security threats from its east and south and also from an uncertain ally in the west. To the east, a very uneasy neighbourly relationship with Russia is developing. The Russian troll factories have been interfering in the democratic processes in the EU member states. The EU has been experiencing cyberattacks on European companies, systems and political machinery.

China also continues to deepen its influence on Europe through trade and investment in the EU and its neighbourhood. Rise of China in the last two decades has totally changed the perception of this country in Europe – from an opportunity towards challenge and finally a threat. The US goes further, asking Europe to take China as a rival and enemy and be aware about its presence in Europe, mergers and acquisitions, entering the 5G tenders etc.



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To the south, the EU Member States now rely on cooperation with an increasingly autocratic regime in Turkey. The uncontrolled migration issues and increase in the terrorists activities have become a major challenge in the current context for the EU.

While membership of the PESCO is only for those Member States who have undertaken the more binding commitments, third states may exceptionally participate at the level of PESCO projects. Since, EU and India have agreed to strengthen cooperation and work towards tangibles outcomes on shared objectives of counter-piracy, counter terrorism including counter radicalisation and cyber security, India's cooperation with PESCO projects would be vital. Both EU and India have a great potential and they need to harness each other's potential.

The ongoing projects at PESCO relating to cyber security will be a good beginning for bilateral cooperation. India and EU can help build military capacity under PESCO framework. PESCO visualises to provide a comprehensive defence package. It is closely connected to the new coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD) and European Defence Fund (EDF). The CARD is being run by the European Defence Agency through systematically monitoring of national defence spending plans and it would help in identifying opportunities for new collaborative initiatives.

Europeans strongly believe that they are especially vulnerable to cyber attacks and interference in domestic politics. This suggests that the EU and its Member States should prioritise efforts to build resilience in the face of these threats. The EU and India collectively can work and address the threats emanating from cyber domain. The protection of all computer communications networks has been the priority. All the critical infrastructures depend on computer communication systems for direct control and other functions. The attack on cyber infrastructure by the terrorist groups remains a possibility in both India and the EU. Hence, the EU-India cooperation in this regard will be vital for the protection and security of all networks and critical infrastructure. How to deal with terrorists in cyberspace remains a part of the challenge? Both the EU and India should work together in finding solutions to both the form of defences - passive and active defence. Passive defence is essentially target hardening. It largely consists of the use of various technologies and products- like firewalls, cryptography,

and intrusion detection to protect the information technology assets. Active defence imposes serious risk or penalty on the attacker. Risk or penalty may include identification and exposure, investigation and prosecution or pre-emptive or counter attacks. How can an attack be made to fail before reaching the target should form a major part of EU - India Cooperation in the Cyber Security domain.

There is a growing acknowledgement and understanding between the EU and India on the need to have a bilateral cooperation on other major security concerns. The concerns like terrorism and a continuous surge in refugee exodus in the EU are similar to the problems which India has been experiencing for decades. The European Union and India evolved strategic partnership in 2004. The 13<sup>th</sup> EU-India Summit held in 2016 articulated advancing cooperation in the field of security.

Counter-terrorism had been a part of strategy of EU-India engagement since the strategic partnership got evolved. The European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy adopted a Joint Communication that has provided the EU's vision for a strategy to strengthen cooperation and partnership with India.

The Joint Communication has aimed to strengthen the EU-India strategic partnership by focusing on sustainable modernisation and on common response to global and regional issues. It also emphasises their commitment to seize opportunities to support and promote effective multilateralism and solutions whenever peace and stability are in danger. There seems to be a deeper commitment emerging from both sides on maintaining the rules based global order. How the EU and India will implement effective multilateralism and push for global economic governance has been a part of the discourse?

While shaping its ambitious strategy on India, the EU has envisioned consolidating dialogue on multilateral issues and also coordinate with India on reaching to convergences on pertinent important issues of mutual interests at the United Nation, the WTO and G-20.



Both the EU and India have traditionally contributed substantially in areas such as peace keeping under the UN flag. There are global issues of greater significance such as climate change where the EU and India have been converging.

With regard to the WTO, the EU and India have shown the sign of sustained rules based multilateral trading system. It is believed that the multilateral trading system has been instrumental in integrating the global economy and to a larger extent it has helped in preventing protectionism. The EU-India constructive engagement can address global trade challenges in the WTO and which, in turn, would strengthen a rules based multilateral trading system.

The issues of multilateral relevance needed to be explored in a comprehensive manner bilaterally. At the multilateral level, there is certainly a scope for cooperation between India and the EU within the G-20. Issues of potential cooperation between the EU and India within the G-20 include food and agriculture, particularly food supply chains, biofuel production and the impact on food substitution and technology transfer. There is certainly a scope to create a framework that allows for sustainable economic growth and the EU-India collaboration would be remarkable in this regard.

The role of EU in fighting piracy and promoting security in the IOR through its operation EU NAVFOR Atalanta was a significant step. EU NAVFOR Operation Atalanta has been deployed in the Western Indian Ocean since 2008 as part of the international effort to fight piracy off the coast of Somalia. EU NAVFOR also provides protection to the vessels of the UN's Food Programme which delivers vital humanitarian aid to the population of Somalia. There are similarities in the India-EU approaches to resolving piracy issues.

EU engagement with India in the Indian Ocean must be intensifying. The EU projects like EUCAP Nestor, the financing of the Indian Ocean Commission and the EU-CRIMARIO project are intended to improve maritime security in the entire region. There is no denying the fact that there is a greater scope for intense discussion and engagement in maritime security domain. The EU and India would require to work together and promote the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The UNCLOS should get reinforced as the basis for maritime





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governance. The piracy will keep continuing as a threat and hence both the EU and India together shall take proactive interest in stabilising Somalia.

The emergence of piracy in the Western Indian Ocean has provided a great impetus and opportunity for navies to cooperate and address all the emanating threats in the maritime domain. It would be certainly better if the EU in the Indian Ocean is accommodated as a dialogue partner of IORA.

The joint Communication also stresses on common responses to regional issues. The EU and India have to strengthen their foreign policy bilateral cooperation in areas of mutual interest such as Asia, Africa, West Asia and other relevant areas including through regular dialogue at appropriate levels of the Ministry of External Affairs and the European External Action Service. Any developments in West Asia will have ramifications on both the EU and India. Geographically, West Asia has historically been a bridge connecting Europe with Asia. Both EU and India rely on petro-chemical imports from the region. The EU-India cooperation in West Asia will create a win-win situation for all.

In the Defence sector, there is no denying the fact that huge potential exists in the EU for enlargement of its cooperation with India. Does the EU have a policy which is distinct and at the same time remain integrated? However, on defence cooperation, there is a growing acknowledgement by a number of European industries in the defence sector to work together and harness each others' potential. The role of European Defence and Technological Industrial Base (EDTIB) is becoming very important mainly in augmenting the cooperation. The defence sector cooperation with India from EU's perspective is yet to be harnessed to the fullest potential. The defence sector cooperation can only get enhanced when the political dimension in EU-India relations is on the right track. India always prefers to purchase defence equipment through Government to Government negotiations. European defence industry got evolved in addressing to the needs at the land, air and sea based levels. The emphasis on aeronautics and aerospace feature very prominently in all the developments witnessed in defence sector. European market in these sectors are flourishing.



The sea based assets in naval defence sector have also seen a great transformation in both research and development as well as the final product. The competency of EU in this regard has been phenomenal. But, unfortunately, there seems to be a lack of fully integrated defence market and hence the problem lies in reflecting the overall EU military capabilities. The sustainable conditions for defence industries in Europe are yet to be created. The dependence of Europe on foreign markets will keep increasing in the foreseeable future.

The release of the EU global strategy has provided a strong and renewed interest in the defence integration process. The European Commission, over the years, has been playing an increasingly crucial and enabling role in creating a conducive environment for sharing the research and technological innovation as well as knowhow among the EU Member States. The European Commission has also proposed a European Defence Action Plan (EDAP) as a framework to promote the required EU policies and enhance defence industrial cooperation.

It must be emphasised here that India offers ample space to EU for cooperation in defence domain. The European defence companies have a number of things to offer to India and which, in turn, would address India's defence requirements. The potential of EU across military and defence domain spectrum is very huge. How EU and India can enhance their defence industry cooperation and realise the larger objectives remain a part of the debate. India's 'Make in India' campaign will be successful only when it realises what it really mean by 'Ease of Doing Business'.

## **India's Perspective**

India strongly believes that the EU is a natural partner and EU support would be very vital for India's sustainable growth. The articulation of India's threat perceptions by and large are similar to the threat perception EU has. The problems emanating from terrorism, migration, cyber domain, maritime security, state collapse or civil war in India's neighbourhood are all similar to the problems being confronted by the EU.



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India –EU cooperation in the field of security is directed at enhancing the security of their territories and the well being of the citizens. Terrorist attacks on both the EU and India soil can not be ruled out completely. India’s experience of handling cross border terrorism as a perpetual threat has been now understood by the EU and the US. The EU never understood the catastrophic impact of such terrorist activities on Indian soil until the US experienced it in 2001 and since then the EU too has been experiencing it in different manifestations of terrorism. The EU has now changed its perceptions on the threats emanating from terrorism. It now completely supports India and understands the predicament.

The abrogation of Article 370 by an Act of Indian Parliament has caught the attention of the rest of the world. More misperceptions existed with regard to the abrogation. India, somehow, was able to dispel the doubts of the members of the international community especially on the rationale for abrogation and how the State of Jammu & Kashmir has been split into two Union Territories – Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. Unfortunately, the rest of the world never knew that Article 370 was a temporary provision and had very limited objectives. Now, after the abrogation, the UT of J&K will see an upward trajectory in the development process in every sphere.

The emerging view among the members of international community that Pakistan is responsible to fomenting trouble in J&K and sponsoring terror activities has reinforced India’s views all these years. Right from prime ministers down to the last dignitary representing New Delhi in any foreign soil have strongly condemned Islamabad for not only using its territory or areas under its occupation to launch terror activities but have also highlighted the futility of talking to Pakistan on these issues. The purpose for which Pakistan has been working with a single minded aim to destabilise India seems to have losing the ground.

The Modi government’s stand that talks with Pakistan cannot happen unless Islamabad is able to rein in terror outfits is more or less a continuation of the stand of earlier governments. Pakistan started using terror as a tool to ‘inflict a thousand cuts on India’. The outreach of these terror outfits euphemistically referred to as non-state actors has now gone far beyond the confines of the region. Some of the lone wolf terrorists in Europe and organised terror attacks



elsewhere in the western world as well as in Asia have been linked to Pakistani soil. The dreaded ISIS and other radical Islamic mercenary fundamentalist groups have been using Pakistan as a fertile recruiting ground. Considering the weak economy and rampant unemployment the radicalised youth find it lucrative to join one or the other terror outfits to make both ends meet. The deep state of Pakistan has got the country into a morass. The political establishments all along have been reduced to being mere pawns in the hands of trigger happy generals literally calling the shots.

Only aspect where the three power centres in Pakistan, the army, the clergy and the political establishment concur is keeping the “Kashmir is ours” narrative alive. In the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370, J&K is no longer an issue for debate in the international forums for Pakistan.

Meanwhile, even as the Modi government reaps the benefits of a diplomatic victory, there is no gainsaying that the situation in J&K has to be handled very carefully. The former state now changed to two union territories might take a long time to limp back to normalcy. Forces inimical to our security and safety are waiting in the wings to identify the chinks in our armour and mount the next round of assault targeting civilians and vitiating the atmosphere.

Moreover, both the EU and India have similar concerns on the threats emanating from terrorism. The potential for a deeper engagement exists and it is anticipated that India-EU counter terrorism will get augmented and a consistent sharing of intelligence information between EUROPOL and Indian agencies will create a win-win situation for all in ushering into a better world.

India and the EU have shown their commitment to enhance counter terrorism cooperation which found a place in the 2005 Joint Action Plan, the 2009 Summit Declaration and particularly the Joint Declaration on International Terrorism in 2010. EU-India Agenda for Action 2020 finds a special mention on counter terrorism cooperation. India and the EU are currently in the process of developing a shared approach at the multilateral level for addressing global challenges and increase coordination.

A set of cooperation measures are underway on counterterrorism between India and the EU. These will be institutionalised cooperation between EUROPOL and corresponding Indian bodies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the National Investigation Agency (NIA). India believes the cooperation in the field of cyber security would be vital for the success of India-EU strategic partnership.

A bilateral framework for countering terrorism would also prove essential in pursuing consistent joint work at the UN level. India and the EU must be committed to an internationally functioning legal system particularly seeks to defy the terrorist threats.

It is because of varying degree of threats emerging, India and EU are in the process of establishing effective counter radicalisation programmes and also removing terrorist and extremist content available online. India and EU shall deepen cooperation on terrorist designations as well as increase the effectiveness of sanctions.

The advances in the field of information communication technology (ICT) have led the cyber domain highly vulnerable. Cybersecurity has emerged as one of the most important threats to national and global security. The threat from cyber domain will keep growing in the foreseeable future. India strongly believes that the EU has lot to offer in this regard and vice-versa. India and the EU can come together and evolve international rules that can apply to the cyber space. The EU certainly has come up with their cyber laws and that can be a starting point for debate and discussion between the EU and India.

India and the EU also converge on non-proliferation and disarmament for maintaining global peace and stability. There is a dire need to work together on preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

India clearly sees a greater relevance to work together with the EU on maritime security. The protection of Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOCs) becomes vital for maritime security. In the past, both India and the EU have cooperated in anti-piracy efforts in the IOR. There is a



need to have frequent interactions between the leaders of Indian armed forces and EU military structures. EU NAVFOR Operation Atalanta has been deployed in the Western Indian Ocean since 2008. It would really provide a strong basis for India and the EU cooperation in the maritime domain.

India and the EU held military to military dialogue in 2019 to expand maritime security partnership in the IOR and such dialogue obviously will help upgrade military partnership. For the EU, China's PLA increasing global foot prints seem to be a matter of concern. India and the EU would require to understand the implications of such footprints and work together to protect their mutual interests in the maritime domain.

On regional issues, India's involvement in Afghanistan in building capacity and infrastructure has been phenomenal. The EU and India together can work on the civilian dimension of crisis management. The EU's contribution to Afghanistan is mainly economic development linked to governance, security sector reform, police and the rule of law. India and the EU together shall focus on reconstruction and peace building as a means to manage the transition from a military to a civilian administration. India has contributed significantly to the training of Afghanistan National Army.

## **Conclusion**

India and the EU can be perceived as the natural partners in the twenty first century. However, both seem to be having differing geopolitical perspectives and varying degree of global and regional interests. There is no denying the fact that India considers the EU as a successful model of both economic and political integration. On the other hand, the EU Member States consider India as an emerging responsible global player. The rise of India will be an opportunity for the EU and vice versa. The articulation of threat perceptions by both India and the EU show a number of convergences and similarities. Both the EU and India can cooperate on the areas of mutual concerns and create a win-win situation.



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India and the EU needed to enhance their bilateral counter terrorism cooperation. There is a need to share intelligence information on regular basis. The EUROPOL and Indian agencies should work together and should be in constant touch. India's experiences of dealing with cross border terrorism and its resilience and how a better understanding has reached among the EU Member States on terrorism is a good part of convergence on India-EU security cooperation. India-EU cooperation in international organisation on pertinent important themes will be also vital for global peace and stability.

In the maritime domain, both the EU and India have come a long way in understanding each others' role and how they can work together and protect their mutual interests in the maritime domain. The new Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region in New Delhi (IFC – IOR) has recently linked up with the Maritime Security Centre - Horn of Africa (MSC – HOA) established by the EU NAVFOR Atalanta. It is a testimony to the growing convergences in the maritime domain. Interoperability and maritime multilateralism could be developed for the benefit of India and the EU.

The cyber domain is again an important area of priority in India-EU security cooperation. It will help each other in protecting IT related infrastructure in addition to their critical infrastructure such as, power grid, nuclear infrastructure, banking and finance, railways and others.

India and the EU would also get benefitted by working together in all the PESCO projects as a part of intense security and defence cooperation. It must be reiterated here that enough potential exists in defence cooperation between the EU and India. Unfortunately, both sides have not harnessed each others' potential to an optimum level in this regard.

The EU-India Summit process has not yielded much dividends since the initiation of the process in the year 2005. The expectations from both sides are far too many. But, so far intangibles could not get culminated into tangibles. The prospects for cooperation in both security and defence domain remain bright.

## Policy Recommendations

- India has to enhance its understanding on the EU by constituting frequent dialogues on the areas relating to security and defence cooperation. The knowledge on EU from multifaceted dimension is essential for a constructive engagement.
- India shall come up with its strategy on the EU. It is essential now for India to have a vision document on the EU with a greater focus on security and defence cooperation.
- Both the EU and India shall intensify all their efforts in the counter terrorism cooperation. Both should show they willingness and genuine commitment to share intelligence information. Technologies required for intelligence information gathering should be shared.
- The EU shall consider India as a third state and allow it to work closely in all the relevant projects under PESCO.
- The EU and India shall work together and create maritime situational awareness with a greater focus on building human and technological capacity on information sharing, maritime surveillance, search and rescue missions and data collection.
- India and the EU need to enhance their learning and find synergies and then articulate divergences in their approaches to the ongoing crisis in West Asia.
- The EU and India needed to play a very pro active role in the ongoing transition and peace building in Afghanistan.
- Defence Cooperation between India and the EU needed to be enhanced and optimised. The potential of each sides needed to be harnessed.
- The EU and India shall work on achieving effective multilateralism and global economic governance. The EU and India shall convene dialogues on multilateral issues regularly and periodically.
- Cyber security cooperation should be given top priority by both the EU and India. The protection and security of critical information infrastructure would get augmented from such bilateral cooperation. EU Cyber Security Act can be taken as an example for the





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evolution of India's cyber laws which are under preparation and is expected to be released in 2020.

- The EU-India cooperation can also get strengthened in sharing the best practices in managing their respective data fusion centre.
- The EU and India together can share their experiences in addressing to the issues relating to migration and how both of them have been managing their respective borders.



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