

European Federalists – EP Defence Proposals 2025

Comparative Tables

Memorandum on European Defence Union <i>(UEF Policy Paper and Action Committee for the USE, 5 March 2025)</i>	EP resolution on the White Paper on the Future of European Defence <i>(12 March 2025)</i>
<p>Strategic objective and Treaty basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EDS conceived as the core of a genuine European Defence Union. <p><i>The Action Committee calls on the Union to activate the different provisions of Article 42 of the Treaty on European Union, including Article 42(2), in order to establish a European Defence System that would constitute the core of a future European Defence Union."</i></p>	<p>Strategic objective and Treaty basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frames the White Paper as the roadmap towards a European Defence Union. <p><i>Calls on European Council President António Costa to immediately convene the European Council, based on the conclusions of the white paper, so that EU leaders can agree on immediate and far-reaching decisions to implement the European Defence Union as laid out in Article 42(2) TEU and elaborate on the measures identified in the white paper."</i></p>
<p>Territorial defence and scope:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extends CSDP missions "to territorial defence and security in our immediate neighborhood". - EDS includes a Rapid Deployment Capacity of 60,000 soldiers as a 28th European Army complementary to national forces. 	<p>Territorial defence, readiness and scope:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insists that the Rapid Deployment Capacity achieve full operational capability and be able to face "the most extreme military contingencies". - Links CSDP tools, the White Paper and the Defence Industrial Strategy into a comprehensive vision of European defence.
<p>Command structure and NATO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EDS would be "compatible with NATO" and "could serve as its European Pillar". - Envisages a common European structure coordinating national and European forces. 	<p>Command structure and NATO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Calls to strengthen the Military Planning and Conduct Capability (MPCC) as the preferred EU command-and-control structure for operations. - Reiterates the need for a fully capable European pillar of NATO able to act autonomously when necessary.
<p>Financing and instruments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposes exempting joint defence investment from Stability and Growth Pact deficit rules. - Calls for "new EU federal bonds backed up by additional own resources" and using a digital euro to set up a Defence Bank. 	<p>Financing and instruments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcomes proposals for a defending Europe facility and a securing Europe facility. - Urges creation of a "defence, security and resilience bank" and calls for a system of European defence bonds to finance large-scale military investments.
<p>Pathways and differentiated integration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggests that a European Defence System could be established: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • by unanimous decision of the European Council; • by a large group of Member States through PESCO; • or, as a last resort, by an interim ad hoc treaty among willing States. - PESCO and ad hoc coalitions are presented as immediate options if unanimity fails. 	<p>Pathways and differentiated integration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Treats the White Paper as the basis for implementing a Defence Union under Article 42(2) TEU. - Invites prioritisation of successful PESCO and EDF projects to close capability gaps and calls for regular PESCO implementation reports to Parliament.

Second Schuman Plan: for a Common Defence and Political Union <i>(9 May 2025)</i>	EP resolutions of 9 October 2025 (united response to Russian violations) and 22 October 2025 (institutional consequences of enlargement)
<p>Central political message:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Argues that setting up a European Common Defence is "the clear and decisive point" in European construction. - Links this to Trump's disengagement and Russian aggression, and to the need to activate "the different provisions of Article 42" of the Treaty. 	<p>Central political message:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9 October resolution urges the EU to move towards "a genuine European Defence Union, complementing NATO" and responding to escalating Russian hybrid and military threats. - 22 October resolution underlines that Treaty flexibilities allow more to be done to advance towards a European defence union without waiting for full Treaty revision.
<p>European Defence and Security System and command:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposes an autonomous European Defence and Security System (EDSS) "endowed with its own chain of command" and in charge of territorial defence. - EDSS to act as the European pillar of NATO, not dependent on the "will and whims" of the US President. 	<p>European command, chain of command and territorial defence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9 October resolution calls for advances towards a European command-and-control structure that would be the equivalent of NATO's SHAPE and stresses "a strong, precisely defined European pillar within NATO". - It also urges consolidation of the PESCO project on an Integrated Multi-Layer Air and Missile Defence System, covering EU territory, especially the eastern flank.
<p>Financing, Eurobonds and own resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Calls for a larger EU budget "financed with Eurobonds and new own resources" to fund common defence, security and other European public goods. - Envisages investment instruments allowing EU citizens to channel savings into defence and green transitions. 	<p>Financing and fiscal capacity for defence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 22 October resolution, drawing on Draghi and Letta, stresses that significant additional own resources are required for the EU to "defend itself autonomously from Russian aggression by 2030". - Connects enlargement, fiscal capacity and the move towards a European defence union.
<p>Legal pathways under Article 42 and PESCO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explicitly endorses the European Parliament's call of 12 March 2025 for the European Council to activate the different provisions of Article 42. - Sees this as paving the way to an EDSS within the Treaties, with PESCO or, if needed, an interim treaty among willing states. 	<p>Legal pathways under Article 42 and PESCO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9 October resolution complements this by urging operationalisation of Article 42(7) TEU and calling for clear procedures when the mutual assistance clause is triggered. - 22 October resolution highlights that Treaty flexibilities allow progress towards a European defence union and states that a permanent defence union will ultimately require a unanimous decision under Article 42(2) TEU. - It stresses that PESCO "enables a group of Member States to move forward towards the creation of a European defence system" and that, under Article 42(6) TEU and Protocol 10, a qualified-majority decision could create such a system, leaving the door open for others to join later.
<p>Strategic culture and autonomy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Frames European defence as a response to a world of empires, where Europe must "defend peace, democracy and multilateralism" and ensure "our own security and defence". - Emphasises that security is multidimensional (hybrid threats, cyber, sabotage) and that only a federal Europe with its own defence can respond adequately. 	<p>Strategic culture and autonomy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9 October resolution interprets Russian hybrid warfare (airspace violations, sabotage, drone attacks) as requiring a European-level response, including layered air and missile defence and EU-NATO coordination. - It insists that building the Defence Union and a strong European pillar within NATO is the way to restore deterrence and protect the territorial integrity of all Member States.