

EDITORIAL

THE FUTURE OF THE EU'S COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

In May this year, a process called the Conference on the Future of Europe was launched, which serves as a platform in which the citizens of the European Union can take part. In this context, we all have the possibility to make suggestions and give opinions. We can participate as individuals or in groups; with a professional, scientific or purely personal contribution we have the possibility to participate in discussions and events or organize an event in our community on one of the priority topics. All this takes place on special common websites of the EU and the Member States.

At the same time the Strategic Compass is being developed at the institutional level of the European Union. It is a document that is designed to unite, harmonize and unify all proposals, discussions and starting points on the future of the Union so that they can be implemented to the greatest extent possible.

The above-mentioned facts served as the starting point for this thematic issue of Contemporary Military Challenges, which, in the context of the debate on the future of the European Union, specifically focuses on the area of Common Security and Defence Policy. It was designed in cooperation with the Nova univerza-New University as part of the project entitled an Integral Theory of the Future of the European Union (J5-1791), led by Matej Avbelj and financed by the Slovenian Research Agency.

Much has been written on European security and defence policy. What can be summed up on this occasion is the fact that as early as 1998, the then French President and the British Prime Minister met in Saint-Malo and signed a statement on the creation of a European security and defence policy, including a European autonomous military force capable of operating in cases where NATO would not opt for military participation. A year later, as a direct result of the Saint-Mal summit in Helsinki, the »main goal« was set, setting the year of 2003 as the target date for the establishment of the European armed forces with up to 60,000 troops. However, the European

Union has still not reached this main goal. It was again revived by the EU Global Strategy in 2016 with some new approaches to old challenges. Consequently, some of the better known activities that were formed as its result include the European Defence Fund, Permanent Structured Cooperation, Coordinated Annual Review on Defence and others.

The debate on the future of the Union's common security and defence policy is mostly determined by the changes in the international security environment that affect the European Union and the events in and around it. The analysis of security threats and the risks associated with them represent the first step in creating a future strategic framework, to be defined by the debaters at national levels and coordinated at the European level. The key achievements will include coordinated agreements in the field of achieving the »main goal« of 2003, namely the European Union as an independent actor in the field of security and defence. It is expected to have more geopolitical power, which, as Josep Borrel, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, put it in 2019, will »also know how to use the language of power«. The path to this goal will by no means be easy. Coordination between the 27 members in the field of security and defence is a demanding process. In addition, it needs to be properly positioned in relation to NATO's strategic security partner. However, its placement in the defence planning process of the Member States will be the most demanding and important.

The Republic of Slovenia is chairing the Council of the European Union at a time of important changes for the Union, which may be decisive in the future. With this thematic issue of the Contemporary Military Challenges, we want to add to Slovenia's contribution in this process.

Igor Senčar writes about the importance of the European Union's resilience in a cognitive sense. In the article *The cognitive aspects of Europe's security and defence challenges* he uses the case of Russia's annexation of Crimea to describe the development of a phenomenon that was collectively perceived, understood and learnt from. Modern European society, with its prosperity and high democratic standards, also has shortcomings that need to be acknowledged in order to increase societal resilience in the future.

One of the ways in which we could achieve greater power of the Union is the greater role of its community or its institutions. This is proposed by **Katarina Vatovec** in the article *The communitarization of the European Union's defence policy*. Changes have to be applied also in the way the decisions are made, including the voting method, which should be a majority one in order to increase the effectiveness of this policy.

In the article *European security and defence: a breakthrough or simply muddling through*, **Dick Zandee** notes that changes should be made in the EU security and defence. The long-standing agreement and coordination in this area, which is

reflected primarily in its documents and not in its actions, must end. To this end, the author proposes the concrete changes needed to achieve this goal.

Twenty years of the European Union's activities in the field of international missions and operations is a proof that the EU is an important international player. The details of its activities are presented by **Aleksandra Koziol** in her article *Missions and operations as a tool for shaping EU's global engagement*. She notes that the Covid 19 epidemic has shifted the Union's focus from the global to more internal affairs of the Union itself, which calls to a reflection on the future in this area as well.

As part of Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, **Jelena Juvan** discusses *The future of the common security and defence policy and small member states*. She writes about what a small country can achieve in this process given the fact that the Union as a whole has failed to implement its decisions from the past. However, it is crucial whether the area of the common security and defence policy is designed in such a way that it could represent a response to modern security threats.