The EU is facing new and increasing threats and challenges. To counter them, protect its citizens, and enhance its strategic autonomy to become a stronger global partner, the EU needs to define what kind of security and defence actor it wants to be.

**ADDRESSING THREATS TO THE EU’S SECURITY**

As a first step to determine the direction of travel, the EU has conducted for the first time a comprehensive analysis on key threats and challenges to Europe, including:

1. **Global and regional threats**
2. **Conflicts in our neighbourhood**
3. **Challenges by state actors**
4. **Threats by non-state actors**

The Threat Analysis is a classified intelligence report identifying key trends:

- **Global level**: slowdown of globalisation, growing economic rivalry between global powers, climate change and competition for resources, migratory pressures, and threats to the multilateral system.

- **Regional level**: regional instability, conflict, state fragility, inter-state tensions, external influences, destabilising impact of non-state actors.

- **Threats against the EU**: state and non-state actors targeting the EU with hybrid tools, including disruptive technologies, disinformation, and other non-military sources of influence; terrorist threat.

**DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC COMPASS TO GUIDE OUR ACTIONS**

The Strategic Compass will help strengthen a common European security and defence culture and help define the right objectives and concrete goals for our policies.

The Strategic Compass will address four different, inter-linked areas:

1. **Crisis management missions**
2. **Resilience**
3. **Capabilities and Instruments**
4. **Working with partners**

- **JUNE 2020**: Tasking by Council
- **NOVEMBER 2020**: Threat analysis
- **1ST HALF OF 2021**: Strategic dialogue with Member States
- **2ND HALF OF 2021**: Development of Strategic Compass
- **EARLY 2022**: Adoption of Strategic Compass