

Europe: Cultures of Defence and the Defence of Cultures

Damien Helly

Visiting professor, EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies Department (College of Europe, Bruges campus). He is an international cultural advisor and has managed policy research teams in various think tanks for over 20 years: ECDDP, Senior Research Fellow European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), International Crisis Group and Saferworld. He was one of the four independent experts coordinating the EU preparatory action on culture in external relations in 2012-2013 leading to the adoption of the 2016 EU strategic approach towards international cultural relations. Holds a PhD in Political Science from Sciences Po, Paris.

Abstract

This article explores the cultural dimensions of European security policies. It looks at three main questions. The first relates to the impact of various European cultures on the emergence or not of a European culture of defence. The second, explores how cultural change in the European defence sector can impact EU's external action as a whole. Third, the article outlines actions and policy measures that would contribute both to the faster development of European cultures of defence while contributing to the defence of cultures worldwide. Investments will be required in at least two areas for defence sectors: life-long practice-oriented interdisciplinary intercultural learning for security and defence staff, and enhanced creative and artistic partnerships with cultural professionals, in Europe and beyond. Strategic creativity has become as important as creative strategies.

Resumo

Europa: Culturas de Defesa e a Defesa de Culturas

O artigo explora as dimensões culturais das políticas de segurança europeias à luz de três questões. A primeira relaciona-se com o impacto de várias culturas europeias sobre a possibilidade ou não de emergência de uma cultura de defesa europeia. A segunda explora como é que alterações culturais no setor da defesa europeia podem ter impacto sobre a ação externa da União Europeia como um todo. A terceira sugere ações e medidas políticas, que possam contribuir para um desenvolvimento mais célere de culturas de defesa europeias, ao mesmo tempo que contribuem para uma cultura de defesa mundial. Dois requisitos serão necessários: uma prática de aprendizagem interdisciplinar e intercultural para profissionais que trabalhem nos setores da segurança e defesa e o incentivo parcerias com parceiros no domínio da cultura, na Europa e para além desta.