

# European Defence Cooperation

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## Abstract

The article offers a view on the state of events and initiatives leading to recent developments in European defence cooperation from June 2016 – when the EU Global Strategy was presented – till June 2018 – when a call for the evaluation of progress of PESCO projects was endorsed by the Council. It argues that despite being presented as an inclusive and binding endeavour, European defence cooperation comprises political, technological and operational standards, which are not accessible to all Member States for reasons of national interest, technological and industrial gap and operational output. However, the developments of the past two years seem to have been having an incremental effect on defence cooperation, regarding the identification and agreement on strategic priorities and the development of financial incentives and processes that may consolidate European defence cooperation, as claimed by the EUGS.

## Resumo

### *Cooperação Europeia no Domínio da Defesa*

*O artigo é uma perspetiva sobre a evolução de acontecimentos e iniciativas conducentes ao desenvolvimento da cooperação no domínio da defesa no período compreendido entre Junho de 2016, quando a Estratégia Global foi apresentada, até junho de 2018 altura em que o Conselho decidiu a avaliação do progresso dos projetos de Cooperação Estruturada Permanente. Considera que, pese embora o carácter inclusivo e vinculativo deste projeto cooperativo, o mesmo compreende requisitos políticos, tecnológicos e operacionais, não acessíveis a todos os Estados-Membros por razões de interesse nacional, atraso tecnológico e industrial ou desempenho operacional. Contudo os recentes desenvolvimentos dos últimos dois anos parecem estar a ter um efeito incremental sobre a cooperação no domínio da defesa no que respeita à identificação e acordo incremental sobre as prioridades estratégicas da União e sobre os incentivos financeiros e processuais, que poderão contribuir para consolidar a cooperação no quadro da defesa europeia, tal como referido na Estratégia Global da UE.*