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## IPC CFSP/CSDP on 4 September 2020

### Background paper meeting II: Paths towards a European Defence Union – strategic realignment of the EU's security and defence policy

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Germany's Presidency of the Council of the EU comes at a time of geopolitical change: the power dynamics between the major players USA, Russia and China are shifting, the USA is calling its promise of solidarity into question, cyber attacks and terrorism threaten the security of the people of Europe. What is the EU's response to this? How does it protect its citizens?

Under Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, the European Commission presented a "Reflection Paper on the Future of European Defence" as part of the White Paper Process. This document outlined various scenarios regarding the future of European defence; one describing more or less an upholding of the status quo with cooperation on security and defence, a second providing "shared security and defence" with responsibility shared between the EU and its member states, and a third scenario for common security and defence as intended by the Treaty on European Union. On the basis of the EU's global strategy for foreign and security policy, the member states have in the past three years taken first steps towards a European defence union in the form of initiatives and reform proposals. CARD, PESCO and the EDF are to form the core of this deepened cooperation. With the recently established Directorate-General for Defence, which is also responsible for administering the EDF, the Commission also aims to contribute towards overcoming capacity shortfalls with the aim of consolidating and creating more synergies within the fragmented defence market.

The German Federal Government also wishes to support this development both during its Council Presidency and together with its Trio partners Portugal and Slovenia. The objective is to further develop and to strengthen European defence as a complementary element to NATO, which remains the cornerstone of European defence.

#### Questions

*What progress has already been made in the EU in terms of the strategic reorientation of European defence and how might the Council's decision on a European defence union be prepared?*

*How can the parliaments get involved in the debate on the degree of integration, the mandate and the tasks, the equipment and the scope of European armed forces? How can these armed forces be monitored from a political perspective?*

*Who would take decisions on the deployment of European armed forces? Which tasks would fall to the member state parliaments and the European Parliament in this respect? Should deployment of armed forces under the EU flag be decided based on a qualified majority?*

*Which tasks should European armed forces take on (defence/intervention/securing peace)? How large would the forces need to be and what equipment would be required?*

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*What could be the legal basis for the creation of a European army? Could European armed forces be part of the CSDP or would European treaties need to be amended? Where would member states' sovereignty need to be transferred to EU level?*

*What reasons support the financing of the military CSDP missions at EU level, and what are the arguments against this?*

*What form of strategic autonomy is necessary for Europe? What is realistic in light of the EU's current "internal condition"?*

*Can a European army act as a complementary element to NATO?*