

Courtesy translation

Summary of the statement by the Committee on Foreign Affairs 2017/18:UU5 on the Reflection paper on the Future of European Defence

In this statement, the Committee on Foreign Affairs has examined the Commission's reflection paper on the future of European Defence COM(2017) 315 and proposes that the Riksdag files the statement.

The reflection paper is one of five documents presented as a follow-up to the European Commission's white paper on the Future of Europe. In the paper, the Commission analyses prevailing tendencies and security threats. Based on this analysis, the Commission presents three different scenarios moving towards a Security and Defence Union. The document does not contain any concrete proposals for decisions or legislation, but is intended to provide the basis for further discussion between member states.

The Committee on Defence has submitted a statement of opinion on the reflection paper.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs welcomes the fact that there is an open debate on future developments in the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy and stresses that this debate should be as inclusive as possible. The Committee considers that EU cooperation has an important role in safeguarding our common security and that it is of central importance that European cooperation should be defended and strengthened. The EU Global Strategy should provide the framework for EU foreign and security policy actions, and the Committee wishes to point out how important it is that this strategy continues to be implemented. While the Committee supports the ambition of strengthening the Common Security and Defence Policy, it also emphasises, in line with the comments from the Committee on Defence, that the cooperation should be intergovernmental and that security and defence policy is the competence area of member states. Such cooperation should also help strengthen the cohesion of the Union.

The statement contains two explanatory reservations (one joint reservation from the Moderate Party, the Centre Party, the Liberal Party and the Christian Democrats and one from the Sweden Democrats).

Examined document

Reflection paper on the future of European defence COM(2017) 315