

## European Defence Cooperation: geopolitical ambitions vs. reality?

Thursday 19 November 2020 at 13.00-15.00

at the DIIS Auditorium

Gammel Kalkbrænderivej 51A, 2100 Copenhagen Ø

**RSVP: Wednesday 11 November 2020 to [event@diis.dk](mailto:event@diis.dk)**

### Seminar description

The EU is currently facing a range of challenges with implications for European security cooperation, such as Brexit taking effect, the uncertainties of a new US administration, assertive Russian and Chinese governments, the economic crisis and the widespread consequences of Covid-19. Against this, are the EU's geopolitical aspirations ("strategic autonomy") merely a vague vision or are they a realistic scenario? How do these issues affect European ambitions on increased defence cooperation? Will Denmark have a significant role to play or will the country due to its CSDP opt-out be put on the sidelines?

These are some of the questions that will be discussed in a seminar organised by DIIS in cooperation with the Netherlands Embassy in Copenhagen. We have gathered some of the leading academic experts in the field as well as policy practitioners from Denmark, Germany – which currently holds the Presidency of the EU Council – the Netherlands and Sweden to discuss European defence cooperation in the light of the current state of affairs.

### Programme

#### 13.00-13.10 Welcome

Welcome by Kristian Fischer, Director, Danish Institute for International Studies

Welcome by Ambassador Rob Zaagman, Netherlands Embassy in Copenhagen

Introduction by Cecilie Felicia Stokholm Banke, Senior Researcher, Danish Institute for International Studies

#### 13.10-13.40 Panel I: Academic expert presentations

Chair: Cecilie Felicia Stokholm Banke, Senior Researcher, Danish Institute for International Studies

*Taking stock: What is the status of the 2016 EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy?*

Speaker: Jana Puglierin, Senior Policy Fellow, European Council of Foreign

*Will Brexit challenge European defence cooperation, or will it be business as usual?*

Speaker: Juha Jokela, Programme director, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

*Transatlantic security relations – close allies or a relationship beyond repair?*

Speaker: Mikkel Runge, Senior Researcher, Danish Institute for International Studies

*The Danish defence opt-out: how does this affect Denmark's defence cooperation with the EU*

Speaker: Christine Nissen, Researcher, Danish Institute for International Studies

### **13.40-13.50 Break**

### **13.50-14.20 Panel II: Policy presentations**

*Future perspectives: What are the biggest threats and possible responses to the European security challenges?*

Chair: Jessica Larsen, Researcher, Danish Institute for International Studies

*The Netherlands position*

Speaker: Rob Zaagman, Ambassador, Netherlands Embassy in Copenhagen

*The German position*

Speaker: Markus Woelke, Head of Division, Common Security and Defence Policy of the European Union

*The Swedish position*

Speaker: Anna Hammarlund Blixt, Department for European Security Policy, Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

*The Danish position*

Speaker: Jørgen Gammelgaard, Special Representative for Euroatlantic Security, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

### **14.20-15.00 Q&A**

*Questions & answers with the audience*