

3rd CSDP Symposium on Security and Defence Cooperation between  
the European Union and Canada

**Opening Address**  
**on behalf of**  
**the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and**  
**Security Policy /**  
**Vice-President of the European Commission**  
**by**  
**Mr. Pedro Serrano**  
**Deputy Secretary General, European External Action Service**

Good Morning Distinguished Parliamentary Secretaries,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Many thanks, Ambassador, for all these preparations, also for the wonderful day and magnificent venue.

I am delighted to speak to you on behalf of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini. Unfortunately, she could not be here with us in beautiful Ottawa. I therefore bring you her greetings.

This year's symposium on the cooperation between the European Union and Canada in crisis management coincides with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the EU mission in Ottawa and our first framework agreement.

But the ties that bind Europe and Canada are much deeper and stronger.

They are rooted in the memory of the struggles for freedom and democracy.

Several times in the not-too-distant past, they brought Canadian soldiers over to the European shores of the Atlantic.

Those struggles proved a crucible for Canadian nationhood; as they did for the European integration project.

Sadly, the values and ideals that bind us are *again* under threat.

Who would predict that a quarter-of-a-century after the end of the Cold War, Russia would annex Crimea?

Or that a terrorist network, such as Da'esh, would attract thousands of foreign fighters from around the world, including from Europe and even Canada, to inflict terror upon people in Iraq, Syria, Libya, but also Philippines and beyond?

And let me here join Canadians in mourning for the killing of John Ridsdel.

\*\*\*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, as yesterday, Europe and Canada stand shoulder-to-shoulder in confronting the challenges which face us both.

But before discussing in greater detail our common engagement in international peace and security, allow me to do a quick rewind in our relationship.

A wine gets better with age, so they say.

Born in France's Cognac region to a family of brandy merchants, Jean Monnet – one of the main architects of the European integration project - would have surely agreed.

He visited Canada on his first extended business trip, then criss-crossed it many times. Those journeys left a deep imprint. He recorded encountering throngs of immigrants, leaving behind their old prejudices and building a new federation with gusto and optimism.

He believed that such a change could also be effected in Europe.

And he lived to see it, becoming the President of the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community - a precursor to the European Union.

But he was not satisfied with effecting change only *within* Europe.

In 1961, as the head of the Action Committee for the United States of Europe, he proposed the creation of an “Atlantic community.”

The new European community, Monnet argued, should join forces with North America, to constitute – what he called – the “Cornerstone of World Peace.”

The EU-Canada relationship – like brandy (if you don’t mind my comparison) - has gotten better and better with age.

As we speak, Monnet’s vision is turning into reality.

Having turned 40, EU and Canada are moving closer and closer towards an “Atlantic community.”

We are on the cusp of ushering in the **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement**.

By deepening our transatlantic trade and investment relationship, creating new jobs and growth, we will lay the foundations for transatlantic *economic security* in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Accompanying the trade deal is the **Strategic Partnership Agreement**.

It enshrines our commitment to cooperate “in promoting international peace and stability.” The agreement will galvanise our deep, multi-faceted relationship towards achieving our shared strategic objectives.

\*\*\*

This is exactly what we are striving to do together.

In this context, I warmly welcome Canada's present contribution to the EU’s crisis management civilian missions in **Ukraine, Kosovo** and the **Palestinian Territories** as well as to the military operation in **Mali**.

As part of the **EU Advisory Mission for Civilian Security Sector Reform to Ukraine**, Canadian experts are sharing their knowledge and experience in democratic standards of policing as well as specialized forensic techniques with Ukrainian counterparts.

In January this year, the Mission signed an agreement with AgriTeam Canada - contracted by the Canadian Government to assist in developing Ukraine's patrol police – to pool their expertise. They have linked up to strengthen the leadership skills of law enforcement officers in Ukraine and improve their first response incident management.

Canadians have also been helping the EU strengthen rule of law in **Kosovo**, with valuable contributions to the largest civilian operation deployed by the European Union to date: more than 3,000 staff at its peak.

Canadian police officers have been serving in the **EU Police Mission for the Palestinian Territory** (EUPOL COPPS). Here, they contribute skills in frontline policing, accountability and human resources.

Thanks to financial contributions by Canada, the **EU Training Mission in Mali** has been able to jumpstart a new human resources information system.

These important contributions and a common world outlook are at the basis of the EU-Canada strategic **dialogue on security and defence**.

Just yesterday, we had a fruitful discussion on a broad range of issues: the fight against Da'esh, the situation in Ukraine, EU-NATO relations ahead of the Warsaw Summit and support for the UN - just to name some of the key items on our agenda.

Such dialogues help foster improved cooperation in the interest of our strategic partnership.

\*\*\*

And **indeed we need to be more strategic** in the way we approach crisis management.

The EU is interested to learn more about **Canada's review of defence policy**. We trust that the Euro-Atlantic vector of your defence policy will be emboldened and Canada will continue to invest in its relations with the EU.

The time for this exchange is opportune as the EU too is finalising work on its new **Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy**.

Over the course of many months, the team in charge of the Global Strategy has been holding intense and broad consultations, including with civil society stakeholders as well as experts. The outcome of this work will be reflected in a document presented to the European heads of state and government this summer.

We know what we want to achieve: strengthening the EU internally; bolstering our resilience and that of our partners, especially as hybrid threats are concerned; and improving the way we approach crises.

As a Union of 28, we mobilise public and private investments, cooperation in all domains, but also soldiers and observers. Furthermore, a network of some 141 delegations provides the EU with global presence. In this manner we pursue a **Comprehensive Approach** in response to crises and in our contributions to international peace and security.

The Global Strategy is meant to provide a powerful narrative for this common EU action. It should also offer a springboard for further and deeper international engagement.

\*\*\*

At the same time, the EU is busy strengthening its security and defence policy through concrete projects aimed at tangible deliverables.

This month the EU issued a major policy document, a **Joint Communication, on countering hybrid threats**. Implementation of actions on these matters, notably strengthening the resilience of critical infrastructure, will enhance the EU's security, protecting Member States and partners against operations of destabilization and subversion.

We will also be looking at setting up a new **Hybrid Fusion Cell** within the EU Intelligence and Situation Centre as a central hub for the production of analyses on hybrid threats.

We are equally considering setting up in one of the Member States a **Centre of Excellence** that will collect experience and help identify best practices.

And, of course, we will engage in deeper **cooperation with NATO**. The Alliance has already adopted its own Strategy. Given the overlaps in membership and the same threat environment, there is no question that we can reinforce and support each other immensely.

Europe cannot be a credible security provider if we do not develop substantial **defence capabilities**. Here as well the EU and NATO are joining forces in assisting our Member States to live up to their commitments.

*The European Commission* will be finalising this year a Defence Action Plan to mobilise financial and regulatory instruments in support of these efforts. This will include a **Preparatory Action on Research Related to Common Security and Defence Policy** (CSDP). It could pave the way towards a more ambitious programme in defence research with funding set aside in the next multiannual EU budget.

The *European Defence Agency* is doing its share to help Member States fill gaps in critical capability needs such as Air-to-Air Refuelling, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Satellite Communication, and Cyber Defence. This requires enhanced, even systematic, cooperation among Member States.

Some Member States are moving further in *Europeanizing* their militaries. One example: in February, Germany agreed to integrate its sea battalion into the navy of the Netherlands. Already 1 Dutch Army brigade is under German command. This is unprecedented.

Through steps such as these, EU Member States develop multinational, deployable and interoperable forces able to rapidly carry out crisis management operations, be it under an EU, NATO, UN or multinational frameworks.

But peace-building, to be successful, requires first and foremost the development of local and regional capacity. The EU is therefore reviewing its instruments to enhance its support to the defence and military sector of our partners, particularly in Africa. This is no doubt a focal point for EU missions and operations. Furthermore, a clear security-development nexus establishes a compelling argument. And we have already provided more than 1 billion Euros in support to African Union peace-making through the African Peace Facility.

\*\*\*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have just referred to the relevance of NATO-EU relations when talking about hybrid challenges and defence capabilities.

The preparations for the Warsaw Summit of the Atlantic Alliance are an opportunity to reinforce joint collaboration.

Beyond our efforts to **improve situational awareness and early warning**, or to work together on **strategic communications** in countering terrorist or destabilising narratives, the EU and NATO are cooperating daily in a number of vital crisis theatres.

More recently this concerns **illegal trafficking of migrants**. We are grateful to Canada for contributing the HMCS Fredericton to the NATO action in the Aegean. Already, NATO and FRONTEX have developed effective arrangements. But EU-NATO cooperation is also pursued in the Balkans, in Eastern Europe, in the Indian Ocean and in Afghanistan.

Arrangements, such as the one recently signed on exchange of information on **cyber security** further underpin EU-NATO enhanced partnership.

The United Nations also remains central to both the EU and Canada's contributions to international peace and security. Yesterday's EU-Canada dialogue took place in the Global Affairs building dedicated to Lester B. Pearson. This great Canadian Liberal statesman – as you know well – was the brainchild for the creation of modern UN peacekeeping.

We are glad that today Canada is further reaffirming its multilateralist UN vocation. We wish to work together with you for more effective peace operations.

The **EU's Strategic Partnership on Peacekeeping and Crisis Management with the UN** brings tremendous benefits not just to both stakeholders, but the people who are beneficiaries of support on the ground.

We have seen the results of joint EU-UN collaboration – in Mali, the Central African Republic, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and in the Balkans – where EU operations have preceded, accompanied or followed UN deployments at the UN's request. EU Member States remain the main financial contributors to UN peacekeeping and are now also contributing substantially with personnel and forces to many UN operations including Mali, Central African Republic or Lebanon. We are working hard to implement the pledge the EU made at last year's Leaders' Summit on Peacekeeping.

\*\*\*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Canada's valuable contribution to EU crisis management operations, our common work within UN peacekeeping, vital EU-NATO relations, all underscore the huge role of our partnership in supporting international security.

But in today's challenging times we have to aim for more.

This could extend to **maritime security**, including also **in the Arctic**, to **security in the Western Hemisphere** (Haiti being a case in point), but also optimising our **comprehensive approaches in fighting Da'esh**. Shoring up security governance in **Libya** lies ahead as a main international challenge that the EU is committed to address. Canada's help will be most welcome.

We should also explore moving forward in **military contacts**. Recently, senior European External Action officials addressed a group of Canadian officers from the Canadian Forces College who came to Brussels. We can increase the frequency of such interactions and link up our own - European Security and Defence College with the Canadian Forces College and other Canadian military and civilian institutions involved in education, training and research.

Integrating gender into crisis management is truly an important task that reflects the EU and Canada's dedication to the **UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security**. We should share lessons, especially as we seek to ensure a Zero Tolerance Policy for gender-based abuse and violence in peacekeeping missions.

Recently Natalia Schuster, a 25-year veteran with the Montreal Police Service, seconded to the EU's Advisory Mission to Ukraine, told the 60 Ukrainian officers she was training: "Police need to understand that "men and women... are affected by crime and violence in different ways."

Finally, dealing with refugees and migrants, a challenge of global dimension, will continue to occupy our attention. The EU is grateful to Canada for having opened its doors to 25,000 Syrian refugees and to thousands more yet to come this year. You are setting the example for others.

\*\*\*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The task ahead is immense.

I trust that this event, which has attracted so many experts and practitioners, will contribute to steering EU-Canada cooperation in security and defence policy.

Furthermore, the EU-Canada Summit this fall should move our security relationship forward in the spirit of the **Strategic Partnership Agreement**.

Security threats don't queue up in an orderly line. They require simultaneous, comprehensive approaches in multilateral frameworks. Addressing them requires partnerships.

Only by acting more and more jointly will the European Union and Canada become more effective in addressing the threats and challenges to our security.

Thank you