



Dear Delegates,

Welcome to MITMUNC X! We are delighted to have you here in February!

My name is Steven, and I will be one of your chairs during MITMUNC X. I'm a graduate student at MIT studying Mechanical Engineering. I'm originally from Montana, and I attended MIT for my bachelor's. Get ready for an exciting three days of debate and learning!

My name is John Gordon, but you can call me Jack. I come from a combination of Chicago, Connecticut, and London. Currently, I am a senior studying computer science, though I have taken classes in a huge variety of subjects spanning film, economics, and political science. As a future consultant, I enjoy being up at 6 am to row for the heavyweight crew team, and hold meetings as an active member of my fraternity. I have also been intimately involved in student government on campus the last few years and am excited to hear the ideas you all will come up with at MITMUNC X this year!

Please reach out to us at mitmunc-eu@mitmunc.org with any questions.

See you in February,

Steven Holcomb and Jack Gordon

Background

History and structure of the European Union

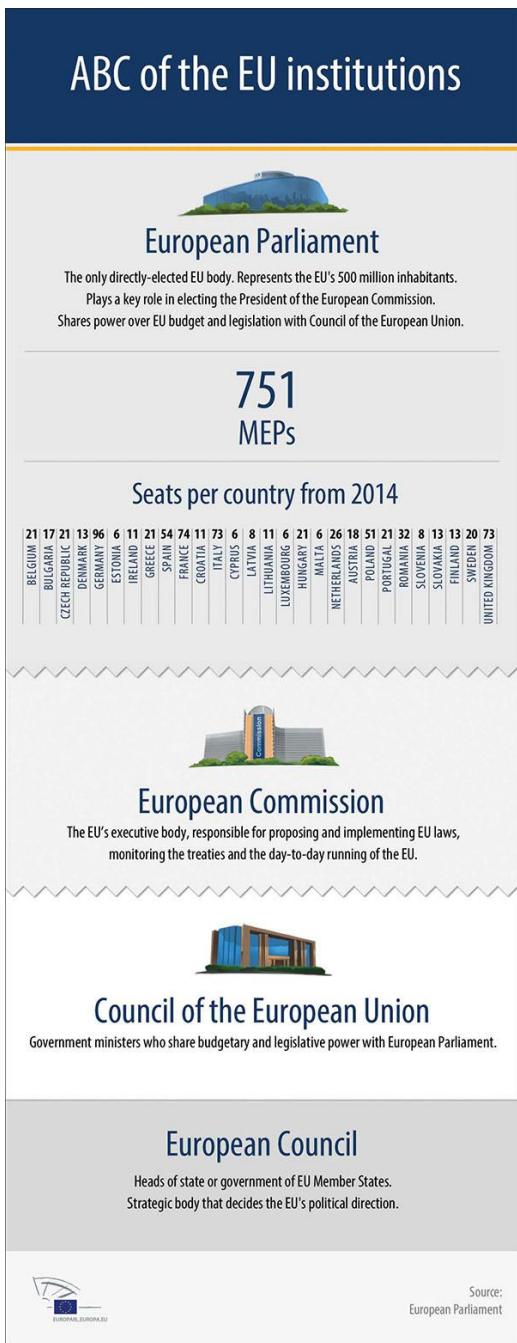
The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union comprising 28 member states, which are located primarily in Europe. Precursor organizations to the EU can be traced back to the 1950s, when the European Coal and Steel Community, the European Economic Community, and the European Atomic Energy Community were jointly developed by Belgium, West Germany, Luxembourg, France, Italy, and the Netherlands (“A Brief History”). However, the EU which we are familiar with today came into being with the Treaty of Maastricht (1993) and the rollout of the common currency, the euro, in 2002 to 12 of 15 member states (“A Brief History”).

The EU has a rather unique collection of institutions which have representative or executive power within the bloc. They include the European Council, the European Parliament, the European Commission, and the Council of the European Union. For our purposes, we will mainly be focusing on the first three.

The European Council brings together the leaders of EU member states (e.g. prime ministers and presidents) to represent the highest level of political cooperation. The European Council, of which you will act as a member, meets at quarterly summits and sets the general direction of and priorities for the EU. Though this body has the largest name recognition within the union, it does not pass laws on its own; though it can propose policy, it must wait on the other three major institutions to legislate. The body also possesses the ability to set the union’s common foreign and security policies and is responsible for the nomination and appointment of high-profile EU roles, including each member state’s delegate on the European Commission. The council as a whole is represented by its president, which is currently the former Polish Prime Minister, Donald Tusk. (“European Council”).

Whereas the European Council can set the direction of the EU, it is the European Commission which is responsible for proposing new legislation and implementing decisions made by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU. Its main charges are to propose laws for consideration by the Parliament, to manage EU policies and funding mechanisms, to enforce EU law in all member states, and to represent the EU internationally, with added emphasis in trade and humanitarian policies. Additionally, the Commission serves as the chief negotiator for the EU in international agreements. At its top, the Commission is led by a team of 28 commissioners (one from each EU member state), of which one is nominated by the European Council and approved by the European Parliament to be the Commission President. The current president is Jean-Claude Juncker, a former Prime Minister of Luxembourg (“European Commission”).

Finally, the European Parliament is the primary legislative body of the EU, being directly elected by EU voters every five years. The Parliament’s three main roles are legislation (including treaties and expansion), supervision of all EU bodies, and establishing the budget



alongside the Council of the EU (“European Parliament”). Currently, the two largest parliamentary groupings in the 751 member body are the European People’s Party (215 seats) and the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (190 seats) (“MEP Seats”).

Recent Turkish history

After the defeat of the Ottoman Empire by the Allied Powers in World War I, modern Turkey came into being when the Grand National Assembly declared Turkey a republic and Kemal Ataturk president in 1923. In 1928, the Turkish constitution is amended to remove a clause retaining Islam as the official state religion, making the nation nominally secular. Until 1952, when Turkey joins the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the nation acts strictly as a neutralist in world affairs (“Turkey profile”).

In 1963, the Turkish government signs an association agreement with the European Economic Community (EEC), a precursor to the modern EU. However, intense political instability and civil unrest between 1960 and the mid-1980s leads to three separate *coups d'état* and new constitutions, sidelining many formal talks between the two stakeholders on accession to the EEC. In 1987, the Turkish government formally applied for admission to the EEC, however accession talks stall through the Kurdish war. However, in 1995, Turkey is allowed to enter the EU customs union (“Turkey profile”).

Throughout the twenty-first century through now, Turkey has been characterized by two major storylines: the reintroduction and subsequent spread of Islamist rule in the republic and a history of disputes further stalling talks concerning EU membership.

In 2002, the Islamist-based Justice and Development Party (AKP) wins victory in a landslide election, but promises to adhere to the secular tenets of the present Turkish constitution. The current President of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, first comes into office as prime minister in 2003. The AKP retains power throughout this decade, with Erdogan becoming the first directly-elected president in 2014. In 2016, the Turkish authorities detain thousands of soldiers, judges, and bureaucrats on suspicion in involvement of a *coup d'état* against the ruling AKP, which affords Erdogan wide-ranging powers in the state of emergency. Dozens

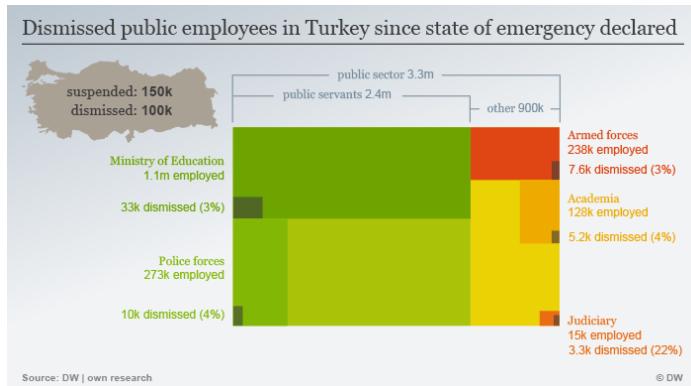
of media outlets, including television channels, are cracked down upon by the state with members detained (“Turkey profile”). In 2017, the AKP placed forward a constitutional referendum, which would greatly increase the power of the presidency and of Erdogan, which the main opposition party, the CHP, stated would “entrench dictatorship”. The referendum succeeded in mid 2017 (“Why did Turkey”).

Relations between Turkey and the EU

After the creation of the EEC, the Turkish government made its first application to join in July 1959. After consideration of their application, the EEC decided to develop an association between the two groups until a point at which Turkey’s domestic situation was such that it fit EEC policies; this association was codified in the Ankara Agreement, signed in September 1963. This agreement is still the sole legally binding document supporting the association between the current EU and the Turkish government (“History of Turkey-EU”).

Starting in 2014, the EU and Turkey began to work in earnest to revitalize accession talks between the two organizations, beginning with a review of the efficacy of Turkey’s joining the EU customs union 20 years earlier. After the onset of the Syrian refugee crisis, talks between the EU and Turkey continued at a much faster pace, with both sides holding three summits to address the following issues: the movement of refugees into the EU; the ability of Turks to travel in the EU visa-free; and continuing accession talks, deciding on specific

chapters of the application to reopen (“Turkey - EU Relations”).



However, throughout 2017, accession talks have all but come to a standstill. Ever since the attempted *coup d’etat* against the AKP’s government and President Erdogan, public life in Turkey has been dominated by political polarization, a rise in ethnic tensions, and an enormous centralization of power. As of July, 15 universities have

been closed, 178 media outlets have been closed, and over 5,000 university professors have been dismissed for purported claims of supporting the *coup d’etat*. Though originally the AKP was Europe-friendly and supported dialogue with the EU, it has begun to question the relationship’s value openly in the last few years (Werz).

EU policy

The Treaty on the European Union states that any European country can apply for membership if it “respects the democratic values of the EU and is committed to promoting them”. The first step towards accession is meeting the “Copenhagen criteria”, a set of

necessary items defined by the European Council in 1993; a country seeking application must have:

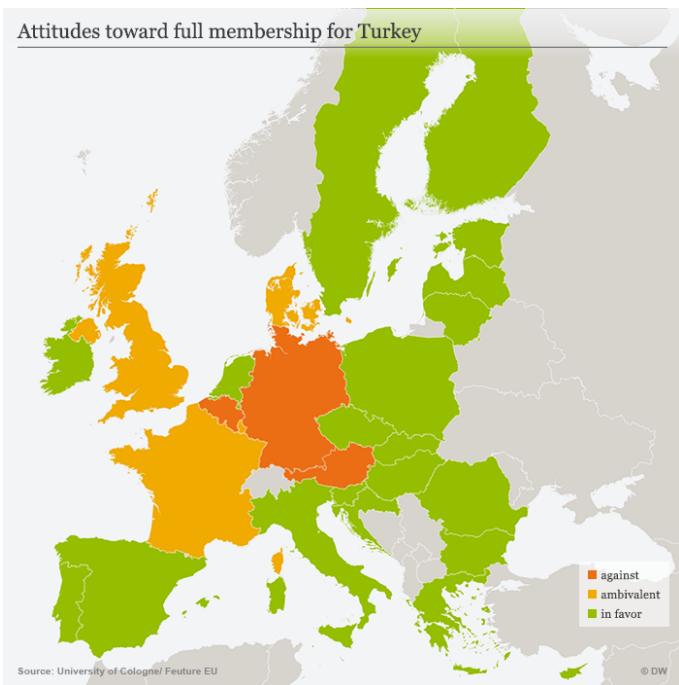
- “Stable institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities;
- A functioning market economy and the capacity to cope with competition and market forces in the EU;
- The ability to take on and implement effectively the obligations of membership, including adherence to the aims of political, economic and monetary union” (“Conditions for membership”)

If the Copenhagen criteria are met and there is sufficient political will among the EU member states, a candidate country and the EU may begin negotiation on the conditions and timing of adoption, implementation, and enforcement of the “acquis”, or the compendium of EU rules and regulations (“Conditions for membership”). The acquis comprises 35 separate chapters which need to all be negotiated separately between the candidate and the EU; these range from chapters ensuring the four freedoms of the EU (free movement of goods, free movement of workers, free movement of services, and free movement of capital) to chapters concerning legal harmonization, transportation, and statistical policy (“Chapters of the acquis”).

Throughout all of the negotiations, the European Commission is responsible for monitoring the candidate country’s progress in applying EU legislation and meeting its commitments towards joining. It must also keep the European Council, the Council of the EU, and the European Parliament informed throughout the process, through “regular reports, strategy papers, and clarifications on conditions for further progress” (“Conditions for membership”). Additionally, the EU and individual member states can choose to freeze talks on individual chapters of the acquis, essentially extending a temporary veto on the process of accession.

Bloc policy

Recently, Germany has pushed for the formal end or suspension of accession talks with Turkey; these calls have been catalyzed by the number of arrests of German citizens in Turkey and a call by President Erdogan for Turks in Germany to vote against Chancellor Angela Merkel in the recent general elections. Historically, Germany’s conservative parties have pushed for a continuation of the current association or a new partnership with Turkey, rather than full membership, as the Social Democrats (SPD) have historically been open to. Though relations are currently rocky between the two nations, Germany must be aware of the 3 million German residents who are either Turkish immigrants or are descendants thereof (Schuster).



Austria and Belgium have both called for the end of negotiations with Turkey, with the former beginning calls in 2016 and the latter in early 2017. Both point at the departure from European values, especially of liberal democracy, in justifying their calls (Schuster).

France has historically wavered in its support of Turkish accession to the EU. Under Sarkozy's government in the early 2010s, France stood in stark opposition to the talks, freezing many chapters of the application unilaterally in addition to the EU's freeze (Champion). However, the Hollande government and the current Macron government has been

more open to talks, with Macro stating that he wants to "avoid a split because [Turkey's] a vital partner in many crises we all face, notably the immigration challenge and the terrorist threat" (Irish).

Luxembourg and Denmark support maintaining talks with Turkey, pushing for a pragmatic approach to the relationship. Neither strongly supports or strongly opposes negotiations, but are both concerned about a perceived drift away from European values (Schuster).

Ireland supports Turkish accession in principle, however has not pushed strongly for its inclusion. It also believes that Turkey must openly demonstrate its commitment to EU values (Schuster).

The Mediterranean nations of Italy, Malta, Spain, and Portugal have generally not wavered in their support of talks between the EU and Turkey. Spain stresses the close relationship necessary between Brussels and Ankara to preserve European stability, while Italy is Turkey's third-largest trade partner within the EU. Additionally, Portugal supports giving Turkey the chance to benefit from EU membership as it had in the past. The countries believe that "halting talks would not only be counterproductive, but would also be difficult to resuscitate if the EU changes its mind" (Schuster).

The EU's two Nordic member states, Finland and Sweden, have also backed the continuance of talks between the EU and Turkey, however have raised concerns as the rule of law in Turkey appears to deteriorate. They generally view membership to be conditional (Schuster).

The Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are hesitant to criticize Turkey, as it has been a strong partner to them militarily since their accession to NATO in 2004. However, as new members of the EU, they believe that "fair is fair" and that Turkey must follow the same

rules as they did to join. The nations of Croatia and Slovenia share this sentiment as well, given their recent addition to the union (Schuster).

The Eastern bloc, comprising Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria is varied in its views, though ranges from neutral to supportive. One one hand, Poland and the Czech Republic have little debate about the topic, while Romania actually voiced support for Turkish accession before even it joined the EU (Schuster).

Greece has been a full supporter of Turkey's talks with the EU and believes that the accession will benefit the region's stability and growth, however believes that Turkey must fully fulfill the accession criteria at EU standards. Additionally, each country has a sizable population of the other's ethnic group within its own borders, which has lead to conflict over their perceived treatment as minority groups. Greece believes however, that in its negotiations overall, "Ankara is still mired in an outdated rationale of reciprocity" ("Issues of Greek"). Additionally, Greece is wary of Turkey after President Erdogan threatened the nation after it refused to extradite Turkish military officers purportedly associated with the Turkish failed *coup d'etat* in 2016 (Schuster).

After Cyprus' accession to the EU in 2004, Turkey has been presented with a stark issue regarding the Northern Cypriot quasi-state run by the ethnic Turks on the island. Cyprus is generally in support of accession, however with conditions (Schuster), specifically over the divided island. At the time of accession, it was believed that Cyprus would be reunified, however this did not come to pass in time. Additionally, the Greek-Cypriots leading the EU-recognized state actually rejected the Annan plan for reunification as soon as they saw the majority of EU member states approving their accession to the EU (Kuneralp). After this, the nation is now able to veto and freeze negotiation on accession chapters, giving it a much stronger position in negotiating for a settlement over the reunification of Cyprus.

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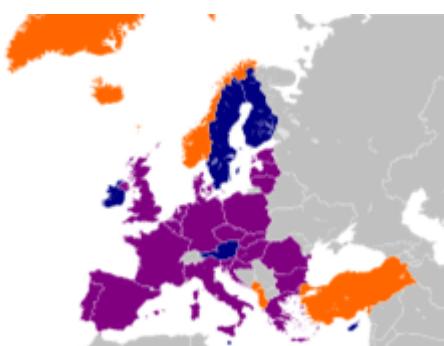
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EU Military

Background

The military of the European Union, in its present form, refers to the armed forces of the member states of the 28 European Union members and their cooperation agreements. Each member of the EU maintains its own military force to carry out defense, peacekeeping, and security operations in accordance with each nation's specific military needs. While presently there is military cooperation between the EU member states, in the form of alliances, joint training and operations, or mutual defense agreements, there is no unified EU military command structure. However, a group of EU members are proposing steps to create a more unified European Union military force.

Since the founding of the European Union, there has been no major military conflict within Europe between member states, nor has any conflict on the continent rivaled the scale of the two World Wars in the early 20th century. That is not to say that the continent has been without conflict, however. For most of the 20th century following the conclusion of World War II, Europe and most of the world was embroiled in the Cold War, the geopolitical tension between the capitalist, democratic West and the communist, totalitarian East. Much of Western Europe joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the military alliance led by the United States to offset the rising power of the Soviet Union. In response, the Soviets organized a rival alliance in the Warsaw Pact, consisting of much of the Communist sphere of influence in Eastern Europe. Though these two alliances never came to blows directly, they threatened one another through espionage, arms buildup, and proxy wars around the globe. NATO still boasts a strong presence among EU nations, and although the Warsaw Pact has dissolved, its influence continues to be felt in Europe. Refer to the map for a comparison of EU and NATO memberships in Europe, with Blue states being EU members only, Orange states NATO members only, and Purple states members of both organizations.



More than two decades after the collapse of the Soviet Union, renewed conflict is simmering between the USSR's successor Russia and many former Soviet states, including the Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, as well as former Soviet Bloc countries including Poland. Russia reeled after the collapse of the USSR, but it has found its feet again and over the past few years has exerted continually greater influence on its borders, invading and annexing the Crimean peninsula from Ukraine and greatly increasing its military spending. In response the democratic countries on its border have increased their own military spending and looked to the West for assistance. An ongoing debate between Russia and the United States revolves around the question of placing anti-missile defense systems in Poland and the

Baltic States. Russia's military buildup has startled other neighbors as well, in particular Sweden and Finland, who have both expressed interest in joining NATO despite previously declining membership in the alliance.

Besides ongoing tension in Eastern Europe, another hotspot of military spending in Europe involves border security in the south. In the last decade, large numbers of migrants from Africa and the Middle East have attempted to enter Europe to escape conflict and economic hardship in their own countries. Crossing the Mediterranean or traveling overland from Turkey, millions of migrants have sought asylum in Europe, straining countries not only to accommodate new immigrants, but also requiring investment of coastal and border monitoring on a much larger scale than before. Spain, France, Italy, Greece, and even tiny Malta have all found the need to mobilize their navies and coast guards to monitor migrant crossings, both to protect migrants from perilous conditions as well as to discourage illegal immigration.

The ever-present threat of terrorism looms large in the minds of every country on the continent, especially those that have suffered recent serious attacks, such as France, Belgium, Germany, and the United Kingdom. Ongoing tension in Cyprus between the EU-recognized Greek Cypriot government and the unrecognized Turkish Northern Cypriot government has seen military mobilization on the island for the last several decades. Religious and ethnic tension in the Balkans has seen repeated military action occur, including the US-led bombing campaign and Croatian invasion of Serbia in 1995. Furthermore, cyber warfare looms increasingly larger as a military threat to nations across the continent and the world. Though Europe has been free of large-scale military conflict since the formation of the European Union, defense considerations have been fresh on the minds of continent's leaders. It is for this reason that some European Union leaders have proposed closer military ties between member states, including the possibility of a joint EU military.

EU Policy and Action

Presently, the defense of the European Union is maintained by individual militaries of the member states. However, there are multiple provisions that maintain mutual defense policies, including the separate but overlapping NATO. Among the most important military agreements on the continent, NATO actually predates the European Union. 22 EU members count themselves as members of NATO as well as the EU. All maintain close military relationships with one another and with the United States, performing joint military exercises and pledging to spend a certain percentage of their national GDP, 2%, on defense. Despite this agreement, however, in recent years the amount of military spending among NATO members in Europe has fallen to its lowest level since the end of the Cold War. Strong pressure from the United States appears to coincide with increased military spending among NATO members, but it is currently unclear how much increase NATO members will see. Recent tension with Russia has also encouraged more EU members, namely Sweden and Finland, to contemplate NATO membership as well, reinforcing the importance of the alliance on the military policy of the European Union.

Even between non-NATO members of the EU, provisions exist to provide for mutual defense and cooperation in military matters. Article 42 of the Maastricht Treaty (also called the Treaty on European Union) specifically addresses military integration within the union. The following three clauses are particularly notable:

- **Article 42.2** addresses total integration of the militaries of European Union member states, including joint command, training, and operations without regard to individual military members' country of origin. While not an active provision in the treaty, the article remains an actively debated clause that has the potential to be implemented should a unanimous vote of EU members approve it. Current support for total integration is mixed, as discussed in the Bloc Policy section, but the provision exists as a possible method of uniting the militaries of the EU into a single force. The provision is worded to address "*...joint disarmament operations, humanitarian and rescue tasks, military advice and assistance tasks, conflict prevention and peace-keeping tasks, tasks of combat forces in crisis management, including peace-making and post-conflict stabilisation. All these tasks may contribute to the fight against terrorism, including by supporting third countries in combating terrorism in their territories.*"
- **Article 42.6** gives the protocol for "permanent structured cooperation," or "enhanced cooperation," a procedure where several EU member states establish joint integrated command over military forces. Under the protocol, a minimum of nine EU members could unite as one front against a common threat establish joint control over their military forces "*whose military capabilities fulfil higher criteria and which have made more binding commitments to one another in this area with a view to the most demanding missions shall establish permanent structured cooperation within the Union framework.*" Unlike the total integrated force of article 42.2, the permanent structured cooperation would only involve those countries who approve its formation. The formation of such a force has been proposed on several occasions, notably by former French President Nicolas Sarkozy and by current German Chancellor Angela Merkel, however it has yet to be approved.
- **Article 42.7** is referred to as the "mutual defense clause" and states that "*if a Member State is the victim of armed aggression on its territory, the other Member States shall have towards it an obligation of aid and assistance by all the means in their power.*" Presently this clause has been invoked on only one occasion, November 2015 following the Paris terrorist attacks of that month. Suicide bombers and hostage-takers pledging allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) left 130 dead and 413 injured throughout the French capital. In response, then-President Francois Hollande invoked the article to coordinate the continent-wide hunt for the perpetrators, who had launched their attack from cells in France and Belgium. The coordination stipulated in the article includes sharing of intelligence and resources, including police and military, between members of the EU.

As Europe responds to the threats that face the continent, many leaders are encouraging even greater cooperation. On Monday, November 13th, 23 of the 28 EU members voted in favor of activating Article 42.6 for the first time and establishing a permanent structured cooperation.

Bloc policy

Though it is clear to European leaders that a response is needed to the threats, internal and external, that face the continent, there is disagreement over how that response should manifest. Spearheaded by leaders in France and Germany, 23 EU members voted to authorize the first permanent structured cooperation in EU history. The details of the agreement are expected to be finalized in December 2017. The graphic below shows a scale of general support among EU members for increased military cooperation throughout the continent, including not only the recent vote but also joint action in general.



Five EU members, the United Kingdom, Denmark, Ireland, Malta, and Portugal, voted against the permanent structured cooperation agreement.

In general, Germany and France, along with the so-called “core” EU countries, have been proponents of increased military cooperation. They view a united Europe as the optimal force to ensure the security of the continent. Both nations have large and experienced militaries, though both have also fallen short of their NATO spending obligations in recent years.

The United Kingdom has traditionally been the strongest opponent of a unified EU military, and of pan-European action in general. Historically the UK has valued its autonomy greatly, refusing membership in either the Schengen Area or the Eurozone, and maintains a close relationship with the United States in economic, cultural, and military matters. Traditionally the military hawk of the continent, the UK has most strongly favored European intervention in Iraq and Afghanistan in the early 21st century and worked closely with the US in both invasions. Most recently, a majority of UK voters chose to leave the EU, an exit that will fundamentally alter the balance of power within the union, especially on military matters. Ireland often sides with the UK in its skepticism of increased European integration, though the Brexit vote has caused friction between the two nations.

Eastern EU countries, and in particular the former Soviet Republics in the Baltic and the former Warsaw Pact nations of Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia, have expressed alarm at the recent Russian military buildup and have strongly favored increased military funding, on an individual basis and in conjunction with NATO.

Southern Europe feels pressure from migrants crossing the Mediterranean, and many nations have invested heavily in their coast guards.

NATO has expressed its support in increasing military cooperation within the European Union, viewing a strong European military as a powerful bulwark against both a resurgent Russia and the ever-present threat of terrorism. However, NATO also demands that member states fulfill their pledge to devote 2% of their annual GDP's to military spending, pledges that have fallen short in recent years. The US is particularly insistent that the alliance remain strong and well-funded.

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