

Although the ESDP is an EU project, NATO is intimately involved in its elaboration. This follows from the Alliance's commitment to assist European Allies in the creation of the ESDP by facilitating EU access to Alliance common assets and capabilities. The November EU Capabilities Commitment Conference will be a critical occasion for EU members to implement their Headline Goal, under which they undertook to develop the capacity to deploy a peace support force of up to 60,000 members for up to one year. However, any EU-led operations would still need to be supplemented by specific NATO assets and capabilities. For this reason alone, the two organizations must develop the closest possible relationship.