



PERMANENT STRUCTURED COOPERATION - PESCO

DEEPENING DEFENCE COOPERATION AMONG EU MEMBER STATES

Launched in 2017, the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) is a key framework for the 26 participating Member States **to jointly develop defence capabilities, coordinate investments**, as well as **enhance the operational readiness, interoperability and resilience of their armed forces**. PESCO is mainly implemented through commitments and collaborative projects. It contributes to the implementation of the Strategic Compass and increases EU's ability to address current and new security challenges.

DEEPENING DEFENCE COOPERATION THROUGH BINDING COMMITMENTS

In light of the geopolitical context, PESCO brings clear added-value in addressing the EU's defence capability and operational needs. It aims at delivering critical capabilities with more operational focus, enhancing Member States' ability to address conventional threats and delivering next generation capabilities. It builds synergies with other defence initiatives and instruments such as the EU Capability Development Priorities (CDP), the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence (CARD), and the European Defence Fund (EDF) and plays a central role in EU defence cooperation.



26 Member States undertook 20 more binding commitments in PESCO

With the PESCO commitments, the participating Member States are increasing their defence spending and investment expenditures, aligning national processes, enhancing the availability and interoperability of forces, and collaborating in capability development, training and exercises.



68 on-going projects

The projects developed in the context of PESCO cover domains such as training, land, maritime, air, cyber, space, and joint enablers. They bring Member States together to develop new capabilities, to train and exercise together or pool expertise in certain areas. In May 2023 eleven new projects were adopted, aiming inter alia at better protecting critical seabed infrastructure, enabling capabilities in the area of communications and medical support tailored to the EU Rapid Deployment Capacity. Find more information on all 68 PESCO projects, participating Member States and third countries on the [PESCO website](#).



Key EU partners participate in PESCO projects

While membership in PESCO is open only to EU Member States, third States can participate in PESCO projects upon certain conditions, e.g., the United States, Canada and Norway take part in the Military Mobility project; the United Kingdom was invited to this project, and Canada – to a second project on Network of Logistic Hubs. By enabling the cooperation with third countries within individual PESCO projects on concrete issues, PESCO is also facilitating transatlantic and EU-NATO cooperation.





PESCO in 2023-2025 – or a more forward looking perspective

In 2023, key developments marked the 6th PESCO Anniversary:

- In March 2023, Canada was invited to a second PESCO project – the “Network of Logistic Hubs in Europe and Support to Operation” (NetLogHubs).
- In May 2023, Denmark joined as the 26th participating Member State and 11 new projects were added to the PESCO list.
- In November 2023, the Council launched the PESCO Strategic Review (2023-2025). It is a major opportunity to shape the future development of PESCO beyond 2025 and adapt it to the geopolitical context, while keeping up the ambition.

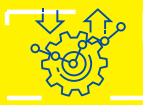
MORE ON PESCO

PESCO has a two-layer structure governance.



The Council is responsible for the overall policy direction and decision-making and provides recommendation on the fulfilment of the 20 commitments; while the PESCO projects are managed by the member states that participate in them.

Role of the PESCO secretariat



The EEAS, including the EU Military Staff, and the European Defence Agency (EDA) jointly provide secretariat functions for all PESCO matters and a single point of contact within the Union framework. The PESCO secretariat assists in the annual assessment on PESCO and in the generation, implementation and closure of projects.

Each year, the High Representative releases an assessment on PESCO.



On a yearly basis, the High Representative presents to the Council an Annual Report on the status of PESCO implementation. The Annual Report of 2023 emphasised the progress achieved in fulfilling the operational commitments and the increase of collaborative projects among EU Member States. framework. The PESCO secretariat assists in the annual assessment on PESCO and in the generation, implementation and closure of projects.

The fulfilment of the more binding commitments.



PESCO commitments are binding on the participating Member States and are to be fulfilled by 2025. Each participating Member State submits its National Implementation Plan (NIP) every year, informing the fellow PESCO members about its progress as well as its national planning to invest in more and better capabilities.

