

Towards a new European deterrence? Operational capabilities and the tentative creation of a security architecture for the European Union

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With the large-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, the European Union was faced with the failure of its own policy of deterrence towards Russia. In this way, Europeans began to massively support the Ukrainians to expel the Russian invader, demonstrating a unified response, despite different understandings on how to deal with the crisis represented by the conflict.

This opens a necessary space for the further step in strategic thinking about the European security dilemma posed by Russian aggression. However, in addition to supporting Ukraine, it is necessary to rethink how to build a new European deterrence architecture that advances towards its own model, capable of responding to and stopping crises.

This indicates a new path for NATO, in the sense that it should have a more European face with the strengthening of its military forces, given Washington's reorientation towards the Indo-Pacific and the articulation of containment to the China. Still, one cannot ignore the complex issues of US internal politics, which causes uncertainty about the security that the Americans can provide to Europe, both in personnel and equipment.

A tentative solution involves recovering and building European operational capabilities, reconstituting European military forces and providing them with adequate means to deal with the challenges of war in the 21st century. This is not just about military equipment, but about equipping ourselves with new ways of thinking, rescuing the role of Operational Art in conducting military campaigns. Reconnecting political purpose to military power is vital in this effort, as without political will the slightest articulation of force is not possible. Societies will have to be involved in this effort, because without their support, nothing will happen.

In this way, the purpose of this work is to promote the debate on this proposal, considering the European realities, regardless of the outcome of the war in Ukraine, which will have to deal once again with the specter of the threat of conflict on the continent.