

Will the EU Rapid Deployment Capacity be operational by 2025?

Evening conference, 4 May 2023, 17:00 – 18:30

Mr Frédéric MAURO (*French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs*)
Dr Markus KAIM (*German Institute for International and Security Affairs*)

Dear Madam, Sir,

We are pleased to invite you to an **evening conference** organised on **Thursday 4 May 2023** from **17:00 until 18:30** by the **Centre for Security and Defence Studies** of the Royal Higher Institute for Defence.

Twenty-five years after the Franco-British Summit held in Saint-Malo, fourteen years after the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon and confronted by the first interstate conflict in its history since the Second World War, Europe seems to be taking stock of the defence challenges it is facing: clearly, the political will of the European nations to collectively defend themselves has increased significantly in the past few years. In March 2022, the Member States of the European Union have approved the Strategic Compass for Security and Defence providing for an EU Rapid Deployment Capacity embodying a modular force of up to 5,000 troops by 2025. This initiative, which is very similar to “a geopolitical European awakening”, must however be put into perspective. Numerous questions, and not insignificant ones, remain unanswered. Will the EU Rapid Deployment Capacity be immune to divisions between EU Member States? Will it constitute a real “autonomous” ability to act? Will it be supported by a strategy providing it with the necessary means to be effective in the field? Finally, will it be a credible force?

In order to answer all these questions, we will be pleased to welcome Mr Frédéric Mauro, lawyer at the Bar of Brussels and research fellow at the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (IRIS), as well as Dr Markus Kaim, senior fellow at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP) and assistant professor at the Department of Political Science at the University of Zurich, who will share their views on recent developments in EU capabilities.

This conference will take place **in English and in French** on **Thursday 4 May 2023 at 17:00 in the conference room at campus Renaissance** (entrance: **rue Hobbema 8/Hobbemastraat 8, 1000 Brussels**). **A simultaneous interpretation in English, Dutch and French will be provided in the conference room.** It will not be possible to follow the conference online. However, subject to the consent of the speakers, recordings of their presentations will be made available afterwards on our website.

We thank you in advance for registering via the following link: www.defence-institute.be. **Registration by Monday 1 May 2023 at the latest is compulsory.**

(Signed)

Filip BORREMANS, MSc Eng
Air Force Major General
Director-General
Royal Higher Institute for Defence

Programme:

16:30: Welcome
17:00: Conference and Q&A
18:30 – 19:30: Reception