

DIMENSIONE GEOPOLITICA E DI SICUREZZA DELL'EUROPA: POLITICA ESTERA, GESTIONE DELLE CRISI NEL VICINATO, CAPACITÀ DI DIFESA

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Geopolitical and security dimension of Europe: foreign policy, crisis management in the neighborhood, defense capabilities

President Von der Leyen and with her some European leaders have expressed the will to develop the geopolitical dimension of the European Union. The new strategic landscape, the rise of new powers as a consequence of globalization, the crisis surrounding our continent and the resulting threats to security and prosperity, together with the ambiguities of the United States on the effectiveness of its security guarantee, have made the acquisition of adequate capabilities to tackle such issues a must. China, Russia and Turkey are increasing in various ways their political, economic and military presence in the Mediterranean in the Middle East, in Africa, in the Balkans and in Eastern Europe. This produces challenges but in some ways also opportunities as long as advantages and risks are adequately considered bearing in mind the strategic priority of keeping Western cohesion currently threatened by internal and external factors. A strategic autonomy allowing Europeans to operate in crisis management, as endorsed by the European Council, is needed. Various financial and operational instruments have been put in place, but the strong political will required for their effective implementation and utilization is still lacking. Only an intensified process of integration can reduce the gap existing with the United States in terms of defense and security capabilities and provide the Transatlantic Alliance with the needed European pillar. Moreover we have seen that when major European countries act united, building on common interests which are more important than divisions often fuelled and exploited for internal reasons, they can play a meaningful role and avoid irrelevance. It is a difficult task. Strategic attitudes are not the same. The issue of managing deterrence and its implications is there. If not all member States are ready to go towards a progressive pooling and sharing of resources the willing should go ahead living the door open to others and using the instruments provided by the treaties or through other means.

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