

Section 8– Relazioni Internazionali

Chairs: Carla Monteleone, Vittorio Emanuele Parsi

Panel 8.14 The Reform of the European Defence Sector Assessing Government Business Cooperation After the Launch of PESCO

The debate over the need to create a common defence for Europe goes back to the origin of the integration process. The literature is rich when it comes to investigate political and military implications. Overall, there seems to be a consensus over the idea that Europe would be a safer and a more secure place in the international system if its member states were to find a common ground to cooperate. This is an objective that is as clear as difficult to accomplish as demonstrated by half-century of successes - starting, for instance, with the signing of the Common European Defence agreement - and failures, such as the most recent event of 'Brexit'.

Even if 'Brexit' is not directly related to security, the new geography configuration of the European Union - which will consist mainly in continental Europe - will change the nature of its defence system. On the one hand, it would allow for a more coherent action when it comes to military planning and strategic objectives. On the other, it unlocks new ways on how the integration process will proceed. The creation of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) and the recent launch of 17 projects connected to it are tangible signals of the possibilities opened by Brexit. In particular, the ongoing scenario will create the vacuum of military technologies that used to be acquired from the UK, but it also opened up market opportunities for companies based in continental Europe – a combination of factors which favours the alignment of interests of different actors – EU institutions, member states, companies connected with the military sector - fostering a more market-oriented approach for the defence industry and potential technological spillovers from the military to the civilian sector.

It is truly evident that the EU security and defence shape is at a crossroad, thus there is an urgent need to rethink how common defence may more efficiently function, beginning with its funding instruments and its financial profile. The future of the EU defence seems directly consequential to decisions made by the EU today. For these reasons the panel will welcome papers which, through empirical research and case studies related to EU member states policies, address four main questions:

- How much would it be earmarked from EU member states to military objectives?
- What is the current geography of the EU defence industry and in which way it could affect future cooperation among EU defence firms?
- What role will EU agencies and EU financial institutions play in this process?
- What kind of public-private partnership in the European defence sector may be established within the PESCO framework?

Chairs: Francesco Giumelli, Marco Valigi

