

OPTIONS FOR STRUCTURING THE LEVEL OF AMBITION IN THE CONTEXT OF MULTINATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF DEFENSE

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***Abstract:** Traditionally, the military level of ambition (LoA) is interlinked with operational aspects, providing a more precise perspective on the number and types of operations that a given country could perform within a limited period. In the same vein, LoA has particular relevance within the defense planning framework providing quantitative and qualitative parameters for forces and capabilities allocated for operational commitments. Obviously, the constant requirement of matching the security environment evolutions poses certain challenges in structuring the process meant to define the LoA, both in terms of operational planning and on resources available for defense. These aspects are more relevant when it comes to generate the LoA in the multinational context, especially in NATO and EU framework.*

***Keywords:** NATO, EU, Common Security and Defense Policy, European defense, defense planning, Level of Ambition, EU Global Security Strategy*

Introduction

Defining the military level of ambition in the current security environment is a complex process, both from a national perspective and from that of multinational cooperation formats. The main challenges lie with the latter, in particular regarding the way in which different models applied by member states for structuring the level of ambition. The relevant aspect is the way in which LoA is connected to their potential, viewed both from the perspective of force generation and the existence of support capabilities in the theatre. In this paradigm, the issue of standardizing the level of ambition through a single formula is an objective in itself, difficult to achieve in the absence of a sufficiently rigorous and, equally, flexible

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