

**NATO 2022 STRATEGIC CONCEPT –
THE EUROPEAN UNION’S STRATEGIC COMPASS FOR
SECURITY AND DEFENCE.
COMPARING VIEWS AND APPROACHES**

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***Abstract:** During the past decade, the strategic environment and global security have suffered significant changes. The strategic competition has increasingly accentuated and Europe is witnessing a new war on the continent that generates severe security, humanitarian, and economic consequences. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected public health, global economy and societies, emphasizing vulnerabilities to hybrid threats and the need to enhance resilience. Moreover, developments in the cyber and new technologies domain pose a significant threat to the European Union and the Euro-Atlantic area. Against this background the European Union and NATO set their priorities for the next decade in the EU’ Strategic Compass and NATO 2022 Strategic Concept. We will compare the two documents with the aim at identifying similarities and difference with regard to NATO’s and EU’s views on the strategic environment and their approach in managing challenges and threats to their own security and interests, as well as to their shared goals and interests.*

***Keywords:** European Union, NATO, Strategic Concept, Strategic Compass, strategic environment, strategic competition, Russia, China, rules-based international order, multilateralism, defence, security.*

I. An overview of the European and the Euro-Atlantic context

Developments in recent years, especially in 2022, have severely affected the security, stability and prosperity on the European continent and in the Euro-Atlantic area, as well as the international environment as a whole. The multifaceted effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the public health, global economy, and societies worldwide; the increase of new threats in the cyber, hybrid and new technologies domains; the impact of climate change; and the return of conventional war to Europe have generated multiple severe challenges for the West and called for short to medium and long-term solutions. Moreover, the already shaped strategic

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