

Involvement of Third Countries in the EU Common Security and Defence Policy

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Outline

The invasion of the Russian Federation of Ukraine on February 24th 2022, heightened the significance of the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) for the EU and its Member States. Furthermore, some third countries (mainly EU candidate countries) expressed their interest in closer integration in the EU CSDP. Such integration can take place through joint initiatives in the field of European security, closer cooperation and support for EU CSDP missions, and new funding and research mechanisms that enhance the EU's and third countries' defence capabilities.

Ukraine can be considered a 'success' story of pursuing closer integration of a third country with the EU CSDP. It takes place through joint security commitments, CSDP missions in Ukraine, financial and military support for Ukraine's defence, adherence to the EU CSDP as part of Ukraine's EU accession, strategic cooperation, and the integration of Ukraine into various sectors and policies of the EU CSDP. The example of Ukraine shows that an EU candidate country can successfully recalibrate its relations with the EU from a recipient of EU support to an active partner within the EC CSDP.