

## Towards a European Army: A Necessary Step for Collective Security

**Abstract:** *A unified European army, equipped with a centralized command and shared resources, would allow Europe to overcome the inefficiencies and fragmentations that currently limit its military capacity. Such an instrument would not only strengthen the continent's defense and its ability to respond to international crises but would also promote greater interoperability among national armed forces, with tangible benefits in terms of spending efficiency and equipment standardization.*

*However, the creation of a European army represents a complex challenge, requiring strong political commitment and a shared vision from all member states. It is necessary to overcome the resistance and concerns related to the transfer of sovereignty in defense matters, as well as to find a balance between the need for a unified command and respect for the specificities and military traditions of each country. Despite the difficulties, the potential benefits of a European army are evident. In addition to the strategic and military advantages, this initiative could lead to greater political and economic integration, strengthening Europe's role as a global actor and promoting a culture of security and solidarity among European citizens.*



The establishment of a European army represents a complex challenge, but also a unique opportunity for Europe to strengthen its security, increase its geopolitical influence, and optimize defense spending. The financial and strategic benefits of this initiative are evident, and the debate on its realization should be deepened and open to all interested parties. Only through a decisive political commitment and a shared vision will the continent be able to assume the role it deserves in global security and in the

construction of a stable and prosperous future for all European citizens.

The idea of a true European political and military union is not new: as early as 1935 and 1946, Winston Churchill called for the creation of a "United States of Europe" as a condition for peace and stability on the continent. Subsequently, President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1951 and General Charles de Gaulle in 1953 also reiterated the need for a politically united Europe to assume a strategic role in collective defense. Today, more than ever, the absence of a unified European army represents a limit to the continent's contribution to global security, as required by our allies.

### 1. THE NEED FOR A EUROPEAN ARMY

Currently, Europe presents a fragmented and inefficient military landscape: European armed forces, despite having a larger number of personnel than the United States, are only able to produce 5-6% of their effective military capacity. This paradox is the result of disorganized management and the lack of a

common strategy. Despite European countries collectively allocating approximately 200 billion euros to defense – equivalent to about a third of the Pentagon's budget – their armed forces remain fragmented and inefficient.

The current dispersion of resources leads to unnecessary duplication, economic waste, and poor interoperability between national armies. A unified European army would overcome these inefficiencies, increasing Europe's ability to respond to international crises and making it a credible actor in the defense of global collective security.

## 2. STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION

The creation of a European army presupposes the existence of a unitary political structure that coordinates and manages the armed forces in a centralized manner. The United States of Europe, as advocated by Churchill, Eisenhower, and de Gaulle, should be equipped with a Unified Defense Command, responsible for strategic planning, operational management, and military logistics.

The organization of the European army could be inspired by the NATO model, with a clear hierarchical structure, a unified command, and integration of specialized forces from the various member states. Furthermore, the creation of a common defense fund would guarantee a more equitable distribution of resources and greater efficiency in military spending.

## 3. THE COST OF NON-EUROPE IN DEFENSE

European defense spending is currently inefficient. While European countries collectively spend a substantial amount—around 200 billion euros annually—the lack of coordination and the fragmented nature of their armed forces severely limit their actual military capability. This inefficiency is estimated to cost Europe tens of billions of euros each year. This happens because each country develops and maintains its own separate military structures, leading to a lot of duplicated effort.

This duplication and overlap are a major drain on resources. Without a unified approach, countries end up with redundant weapon

systems, infrastructure, and logistical capabilities. Instead of pooling resources and standardizing equipment, each nation invests in its own versions, resulting in a significant waste of money. Furthermore, this lack of coordination hinders interoperability, making it more difficult for European forces to work together effectively. Essentially, they have different tools and systems that don't communicate well, reducing their overall effectiveness.

Finally, the absence of a unified European army prevents the exploitation of economies of scale. A single, large military force could negotiate better prices for equipment and streamline production. Currently, each country procures its own equipment in smaller quantities, missing out on bulk discounts and efficient production processes. This drives up costs and reduces the overall efficiency of the European defense sector. A unified approach would allow for larger, more cost-effective procurements and a more streamlined supply chain, leading to significant savings and improved efficiency.

## 4. FINANCIAL BENEFITS OF A EUROPEAN ARMY

A key financial advantage of a unified European army lies in its ability to make targeted investments. By pooling resources into a common defense budget, member states can strategically concentrate funding on genuinely critical areas. Instead of individual nations thinly spreading their defense budgets across numerous needs, a unified approach allows for focused investment. This focused investment would significantly boost research and development, ensuring the European army stays at the cutting edge of military technology. Cyber defense, a vital component of modern security, would also receive substantial and dedicated funding, bolstering Europe's resilience against digital threats. Furthermore, a shared budget enables the development and enhancement of joint military force projection capabilities, improving the capacity to rapidly and effectively deploy and sustain European forces on international operations. This, in turn, strengthens Europe's ability to respond to crises and maintain stability. Crucially, integrating European armed

forces fosters interoperability and standardization of equipment. This streamlines operations and significantly improves the ability of European forces to work together seamlessly on international missions. Essentially, a unified budget allows for a more strategic and impactful allocation of resources, resulting in a stronger, more capable, and more cohesive European defense force.

## 5. STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS

Integrating European armed forces isn't just about putting soldiers in the same uniform. It's about creating a truly unified and cohesive force that can operate seamlessly across borders, maximizing its effectiveness in international missions and contributing to shared security goals.

A European army would not only have a strategic and operational function but would also represent a bulwark of Europe's fundamental values: democracy, human rights, and peace. Its existence would strengthen the political weight of the continent, guaranteeing the protection of European interests and the maintenance of international order.

A Europe that is militarily strong would be able to assume a role of global leadership in maintaining peace, actively contributing to international security and stability missions.

A strong and cohesive European army would significantly enhance Europe's geopolitical standing. Functioning as a unified force, it would project power and influence on the world stage, allowing Europe to act with greater decisiveness and impact in global affairs. This enhanced role would not challenge or undermine the existing transatlantic partnership; rather, it would solidify the European pillar within the NATO alliance. By providing a robust and capable European contribution to collective security, a European army would foster a more balanced partnership with the United States, leading to a more equitable distribution of defense responsibilities and a stronger, more cohesive transatlantic alliance overall. This would allow Europe to address security challenges both within its immediate neighborhood and

globally, working in concert with NATO allies while also possessing the capacity to act independently when necessary to protect its specific interests and uphold its values.

## 6. A FUTURE OF SECURITY AND COHESION FOR EUROPE

The establishment of a European army represents an ambitious vision, but no less necessary for the future of Europe. As highlighted in the text, this initiative is not only a strategic necessity to strengthen collective security and the continent's capacity for action in the global geopolitical context, but also a fundamental step towards greater political cohesion among member states.

Therefore, it is essential that the debate on the creation of a European army be deepened and open to all interested parties. Only through a constructive dialogue and a willingness to overcome divisions will it be possible to transform this vision into a concrete reality, guaranteeing a future of security, prosperity, and cohesion for Europe.