

European Security and Defence: The Maritime Dimension

Reflection by EuroDefense-Belgium.

“The Nations of the European Union are strongly advised to pool all the deployable assets of their Navies into one meaningful entity, for training (mise en condition) and for eventual employment (mise en oeuvre) and to share the burden of investments needed to fill the identified (by EDA) capability gaps.”

This is the conclusion the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament should have formulated.

Ultimately Navies are supposed to be able, in a sustained way, to assure a presence (today in the Mediterranean Sea, in the Arabian Gulf Area, in the Caribbean Sea and in the China Sea, tomorrow also in the Arctic Ocean), to protect the Maritime Lines of Communications (today in the Indian Ocean, of the west Coast of Africa and in the Malacca Strait area) and to project military power from the sea (yesterday in and over Afghanistan and Libya, tomorrow maybe in and over Syria).

Individually not a single European Navy can aspire to achieve this, it is only by pooling all deployable assets of all European Navies that a meaningful maritime capability can be generated. That pooling is also required to be able to offer an adequate training in realistic circumstances.