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EUPP: The future of European defence under discussion

The Minister of National Defence today defended the need for a "solid common investment" in order to achieve a "more effective" Common Security and Defence Policy.

During a conference co-organized by the Ministry of National Defence and the Egmont Institute in Brussels, João Gomes Cravinho considered that in an environment of "growing geopolitical competition" Europe needs to "avoid simplistic views" and invest in strengthening security and defence.

The minister also defended investment in military capabilities, not only to "deter" external threats, but also to respond to situations of natural disasters and complex emergencies. "We need these [military] capabilities to consolidate our European tools for more effective and integrated external action. Without security we can't guarantee trade or development," he added.

The conference, under the theme "The future of European Defence and the priorities of the Portuguese Presidency: African partnerships, maritime security and resilience", takes place within the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

In the virtual session chaired by Sven Biscop, Director of the Egmont Institute's Europe in the World Programme, 500 guests attended the session of presentation of Portuguese priorities for the European Defence in the framework of the Presidency of the Council of the EU.

In discussion were issues such as the EU Strategic Compass, Mozambique, EU-NATO and EU-Africa relations, the relationship with the UK and the new US administration, maritime security, and the role of the armed forces in responding to complex emergencies.