

## **Trio-Ministers discuss European Defence**

Ministers of Defence from Portugal and Germany, João Gomes Cravinho and Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, and State Secretary, Uroš Lampret, from Slovenia, met today to take stock of developments in European defence policy via video link.

In the run-up to the Informal Meeting of Defence Ministers to take place on the 2-3 March 2021, discussions included developments regarding the Strategic Compass, the EU's Strategy for Maritime Security and Transatlantic Relations in Security and Defence.

**“Advancing our common goal to strengthen the EU’s ability to act, we are taking the next steps to develop our key common project - the Strategic Compass. Joint action is based on common interests and this requires a thorough analysis of today’s and tomorrow’s world.”**

Ministers addressed the importance of advancing this stage of strategic dialogue on the Strategic Compass building on the first EU threat analysis, identifying concrete steps to move the process forward and assuring full participation of all EU member states.

Following up on the adoption of the Coordinated Maritime Presences, by the Foreign Affairs Council, the Trio discussed possible concrete measures on how this initiative could be quickly operationalised in the Gulf of Guinea, which is first Maritime Area of Interest defined by the EU.

Finally, on Transatlantic Relations, the Defence Ministers of the Trio discussed the most important aspects to be addressed with the new US administration in preparation for the next Informal Meeting of Defence Ministers in Lisbon.

Ministers discussed also measures to operationalise the new European Peace Facility to train and equip partners in training missions.

This was the first Trio meeting during the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU, continuing an established practice of regular contacts among Trio

members Germany, Portugal and Slovenia, which will be continued in the months ahead. The last Trio-VTC took place on 10 December 2020.