

Center for Strategic and International Studies

Online Event

**Defense 2030: Transatlantic Security and Strategic
Competition**

**“Keynote Address: Global Threats – The View from
Europe”**

DATE:

Monday, June 28, 2021 at 9:10 a.m. EDT

FEATURING:

Josep Borrell

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

*Transcript By
Superior Transcriptions LLC
www.superiortranscriptions.com*

Josep Borrell:

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends, this year's European Union Washington Defense Forum, our flagship event on security and defense in the U.S., takes place after the recent EU-U.S. summit in Brussels which I would call a re-encounter – a re-encounter which opened a new chapter in transatlantic relations, in general and in the field of security and defense especially. We are pleased to see the fundamentally different approach of the new U.S. administration to work together closely on Europe – with Europe to address the common challenges we face.

Last December, the European Union adopted a joint communication of a new EU-U.S. agenda for global change calling for a strong and ambitious transatlantic agenda. It provides a solid basis for us to join forces to counter common geopolitical security challenges, hybrid and cyber threats, disinformation, terrorism, and climate change. These issues are crucial for our people's security, which is why the EU and the United States should and will work together when it comes to defining common norms and facing global threats and defending common values.

Our united action is key when dealing with such challenges, and the EU wants to increase its capacity to act as a stronger, a more reliable global security provider. With new global threats on the horizon, the U.S. consequently steps up its efforts focuses on strengthening the transatlantic partnership and a stronger Europe. It's also in the U.S. interest – the more EU member states invest and cooperate on defense, the stronger, a more reliable partner the European Union will be.

European Union security and defense initiative contribute to both European and transatlantic security, enhancing the ability of the union to take care of its own security and making it a stronger global partner for the U.S. Our initiatives are also designed to ensure coherence with NATO and to contribute to more balanced transatlantic burden-sharing. For instance, improving the movement of forces and military equipment across and beyond Europe. That's key for our common security. That's why our invitation to the U.S. to join the PESCO project called Military Mobility is such an important step forward in our defense – our defense and our defense cooperations.

Ladies and gentlemen, the recent EU-U.S. summit – I was there – reaffirmed the importance of our strategic partnership, as well as the solidity and relevance of the transatlantic one. We launched a dedicated dialogue on security and defense based on a common vision of transatlantic security, which demonstrates our shared commitment to transatlantic security. There are many other initiatives that underline the new chapter that we are opening.

But I stop here. I will not elaborate on the numerous global threats we jointly face, knowing that the upcoming panels and the excellent speakers and experts gathered in the next two days will do so. I am really very sorry not to be present to learn from all of you. I thank our team and the Center for Strategic and International Studies for setting up this event, and I wish all productive and successful forum. Once again, I'm really very sorry not to be here to share with you this wonderful forum with so many – so many panelists and so many interesting issues you are going to talk and to deal with. I hope next year I will be able to attend. Thank you.

(END)