

EU Reacts to Russian War against Ukraine



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★ Introduction ★

-
- I/ EU support to ukraine
 - II/ Sanctions towards Russia
 - III/ EU rearmement.

EU-Russia Relations: From the 1990s to 2014

From cooperation attempts...

1994: Partnership and Cooperation Agreement

2003: “4 common spaces” (EFSJE)

But 2004: EU enlargement



+ **2009 EaP Launch:** EU initiative for closer ties (mainly political) with Eastern neighbors



... To competition

And the end of the strategic partnership:

2008: Russia invade Georgia

2009: Russia cuts gas supply to Europe via Ukraine

2012-2013: **Ukraine's Dilemma:**

Yanukovych's choice of Russian EEU over the EU Association Agreements

-> **Nov 2013:** €Maidan



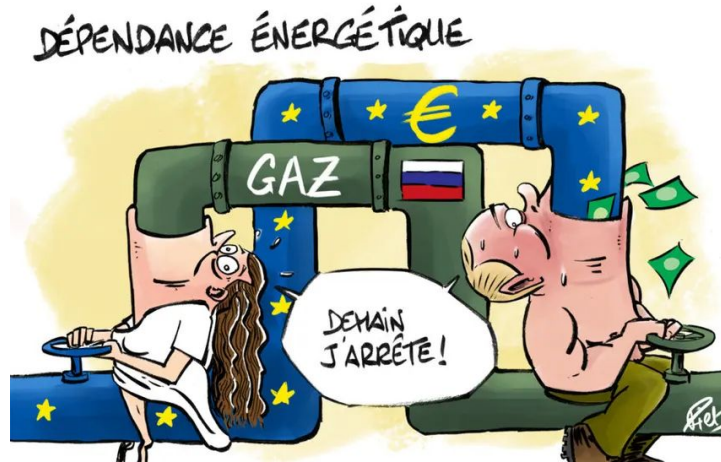
-> Yanukovych's ousting ->



2014–2022: From Sanctions to Stagnation

 **sanctions:** Asset freezes, travel bans on individuals, restrictions on specific companies

- **BUT LIMITS:** in scope and impact < Disunity
- Minsk Agreements I+II failed and EU's role overshadowed



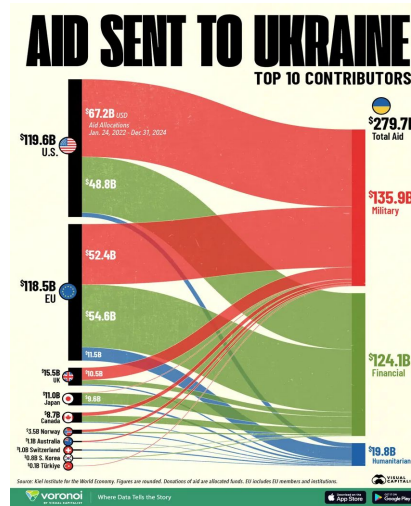
2022: The Wake up call

Why should we care ? SEV



Overview of EU's reaction:

I/ EU support to Ukraine :



Actor	Role
€ Commission	Proposes sanctions, manages aid, and coordinates energy policy.
€ Council	Decides on sanctions and strategic responses (unanimity required).
EU MS	Implement sanctions, provide bilateral aid (Czech T-72, Germany's Leopard tanks, French Howitzers).
NATO	Complements EU efforts with military deterrence (e.g., battlegroups in Eastern Europe).
UKR	Recipient of aid; candidate for EU membership (June 2022).



EU Sanctions of Russia

Economy, Military and Energy

Economic Sanctions: A Three-Wave Escalation

Wave 1: Financial Isolation – SWIFT embargo & assets frozen (Feb-Jun 2022)

Wave 2: Industrial Pressure – G7 oil-price-cap & import bans (2022-2023)

Wave 3: Deep Sanctions – Shadow Fleet & LNG import stop (2024-2025)



Military Sanctions: Degradation of the War effort

- Full export ban on all weapons, parts & military services
- Bans on dual-use components (e.g. semiconductors, microchips, drones)
- Blacklisting of major russian defence companies (e.g. Rostec, Almaz-Antey)



European Energy Independence

- Energy Dependence: 40% of all Eu gas imported from Russia (pre 2022)
- Emergency Diversification: Within a year curbed to 10% of gas (2022-2023)
- Structural Shift: upsurge in renewable energy sources in the EU (2023-2025)

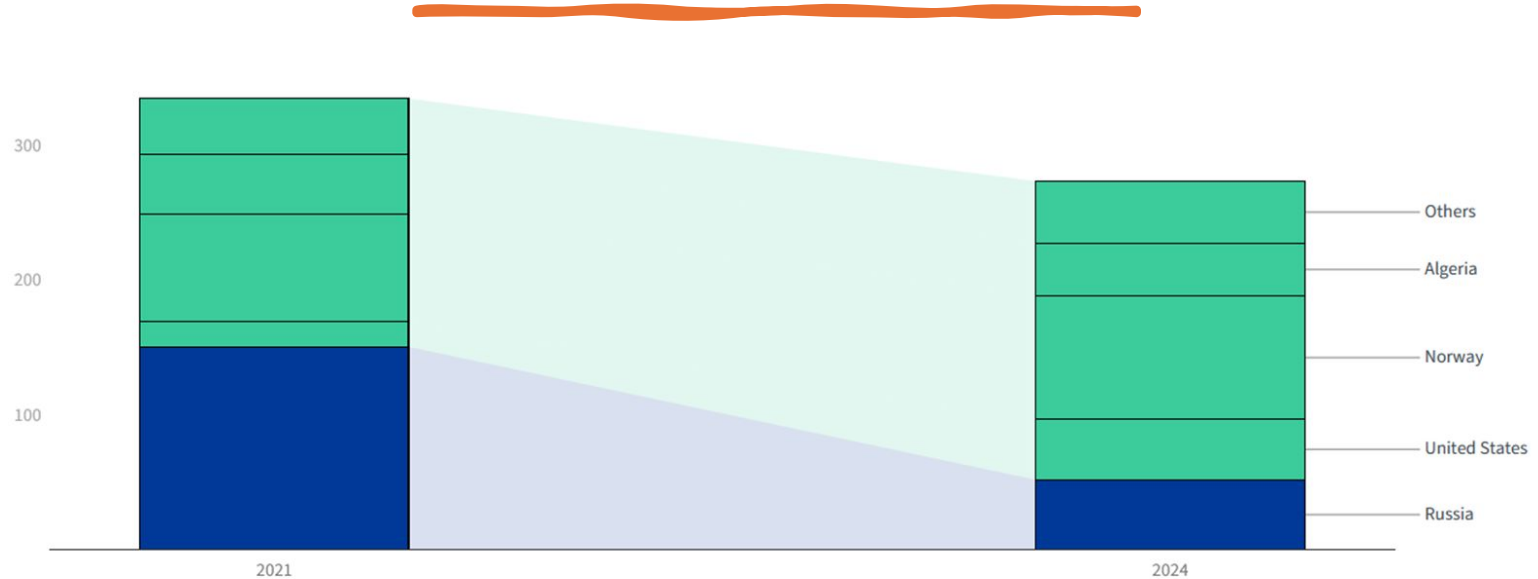
Nord Stream pipelines from Russia



Source: Gazprom

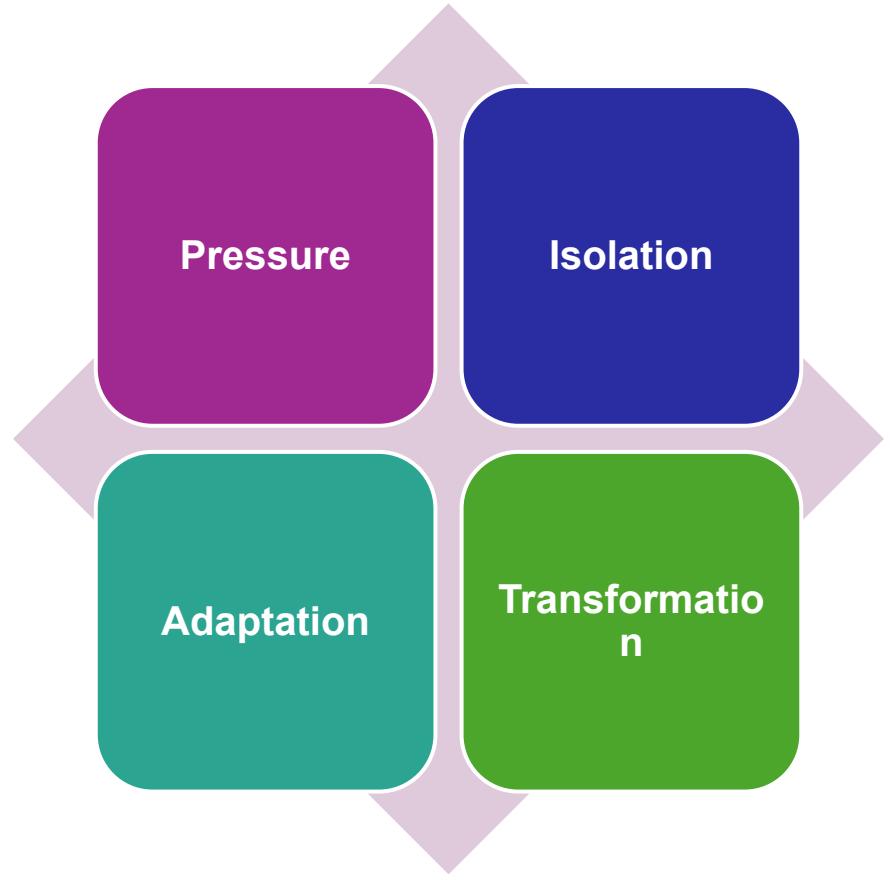
BBC

fig. 1: reduction of russian gas imports into EU



Source: European Commission based on ENTSO-G and LSEG

Evaluation & Outlook



**„Europe is
learning to wield
its market power
as its strongest
weapon.“**

- Josep Borrell, 2023



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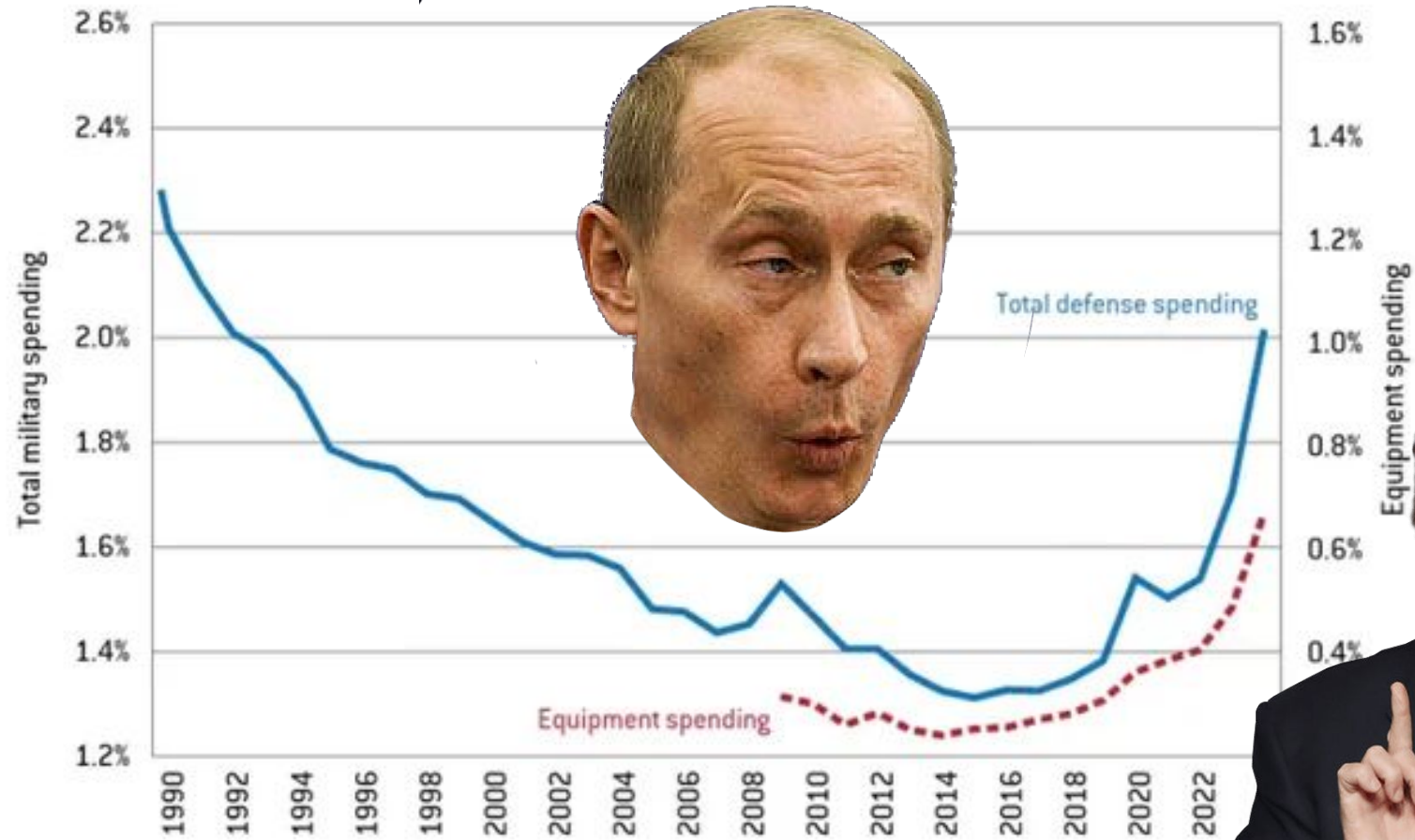
<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/es/press-room/20190926IPR62260/audiencia-con-el-candidato-a-alto-representante-josep-borrell>



EU rearmament

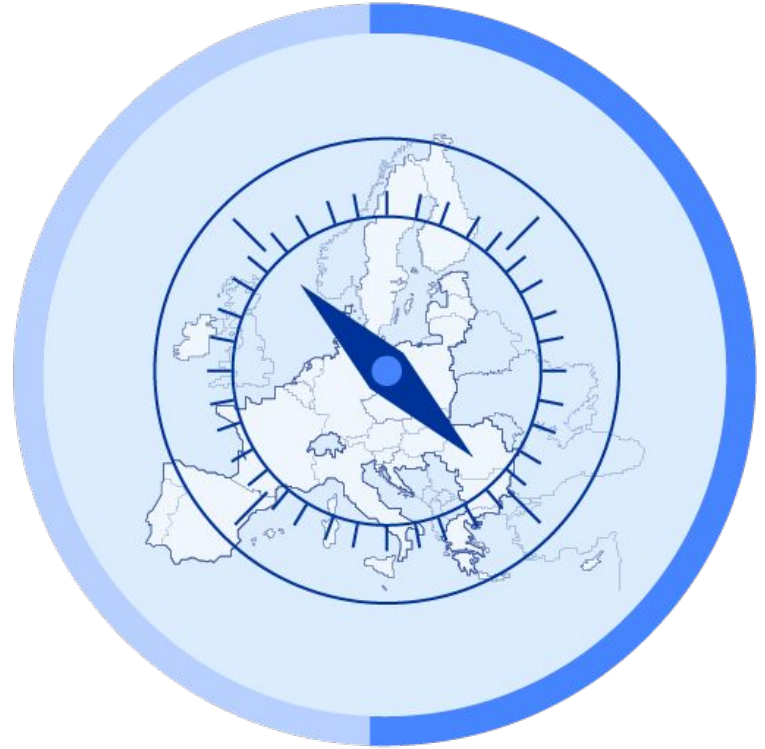
ReArm Europe and the defence industry

Figure 1: Defence spending in the EU (left scale) and spending on military equipment (right scale), % of GDP



THE FOUR PILLARS OF THE STRATEGIC COMPASS

1. ACT - Develop an EU Rapid Deployment Capacity to swiftly deploy up to 5,000 troops.
2. SECURE - Strengthen resilience against hybrid threats. In the cyber, naval, space and other domains.
3. INVEST - Substantially increase defence expenditures collaboratively, and enhance local defence industry and foster cross border collaboration.
4. PARTNER - with United States, Norway, Canada, UK and Japan.



Problems in EU defence sector

- Over reliance on US security guarantees
- Insufficient local defence industry, that is targeted to small scale orders from member states, with multitude of weapon systems, and a lack of common defence procurement.
- The fragmented nature of EU member state defence structures under multiple frameworks.
- Lack of a common EU threat perception.



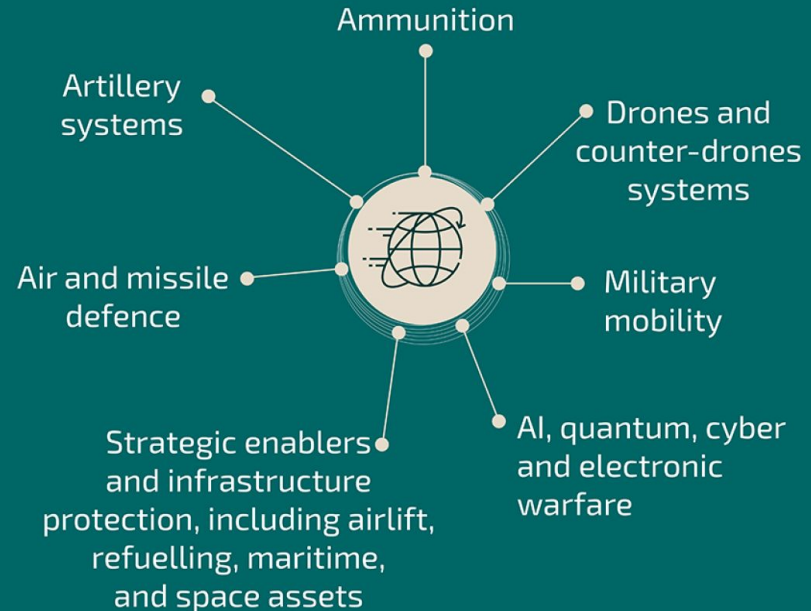
DEFENCE POLICY IS INTERNATIONAL
COLLABORATION.

White paper for European defence - Readiness 2030

- **Greater military capabilities**
- **Stepping up support to Ukraine**
- **Making European defence industry stronger, more competitive, more innovative**
- **Greater joint investment in defence**
- **Strengthening partnerships with like-minded countries around the world.**
- **Enhancing European readiness for worst-case scenarios**

BUILDING CRITICAL CAPABILITIES

7 priority areas to strengthen Europe's security and defence



REARM EUROPE (Up to 800 bil*)

1. Security Action for Europe (SAFE):
2. Boosting National Defence Funding:
3. Flexible EU Instruments:
4. European Investment Bank Contributions:
5. Mobilising Private Capital:

ReArm Europe: The EU's €800-Billion Defense Plan

Components of the EU's "ReArm Europe" defense plan

Allow member states to increase defense spending without triggering the Excessive Deficit Procedure of the Stability and Growth Pact.

€650 billion in additional fiscal space over four years*

€150 billion of EU loans to member states for defense investments



Up to **€800 billion** in additional defense-related investments



Use the EU budget to direct more funds towards defense-related investments. Create incentives for member states

Mobilize private capital by **accelerating the Savings and Investment Union**

Mobilize private capital by **utilizing the European Investment Bank**

* Assuming an average increase of 1.5% of GDP per member state

Source: European Commission



Preserving peace - Defence readiness roadmap 2030

- Organise at least 40% of defence procurement as joint procurement – by end 2027
- The EU has identified over 500 “hotspot” projects with investment needs of around EUR 100 billion.
- Launch European defence flagships.
- Defence readiness omnibus.



European Defence Flagships



**Eastern Flank
Watch**



**European Drone
Defence initiative**



**European
Air Shield**



**European
Space Shield**

National efforts and developments

- Sweden and Finland joins NATO
- German shift to abolish the debt brake for defence.
- An agreement to spend 5% of GDP on Defence (Hague NATO summit)
- Baltics and Poland at the forefront on defence spending
- Reintroduction of conscription in some MS, but an unsolved EU problem.



Too positive?

- Fights over the FCAS fighter programme (Germany and France)
- Increased public spending
- Military procurement
- Intranational fights on project leads and on flagship projects.

Questions

Do you agree? - Why or why not?

"The EU's response to the war has been more about the symbolism than substance."

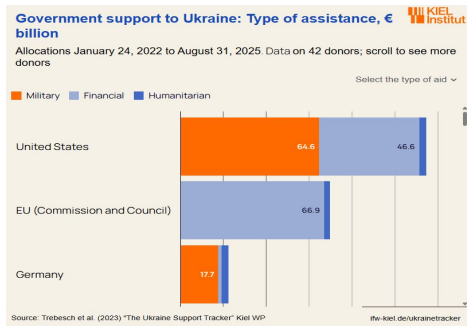
"Should the EU have its own army?"

Sources

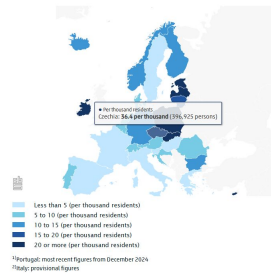
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Ukrainians covered by Temporary Protection Directive, February 2025



SOURCES FELIX

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- Usage of AI: ChatGPT has been tasked with summarizing certain certain source materials into a more fluently presentable form.

Rearmament sources

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