

The phantom menace: organized crime and ESDP missions

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Abstract

Non-military threats and non-state actors (such as transnational organized crime) have become a major question in the research and policy agenda on regional crises, peace and stability missions. Through the European Defence and Security Policy (ESDP, now CSDP) the European Union (EU) aims at enhancing its global role. While being active in peace support operations, Bruxelles appears to be increasingly aware of the challenge that organized crime poses for socio-economic development and political stability in post-hostilities scenarios.

This paper explores the evolution of the European Union's defence and foreign policy in the new century by looking into the way in which specific strategies, resources and tools have been dedicated to countering transnational organized crime in situations of unstable peace, or in countries emerging from armed conflict. The research will first attempt to reconstruct how the EU came to address the question of organized crime. Then it delves into the EU foreign policy through a reconnaissance exploration of missions to Kosovo and Guinea Bissau to attempt an initial analysis of how the Common Security and Defense Policy is conceptually and operationally equipped to meet this challenge.