



MILITARY MOBILITY

WHAT IS MILITARY MOBILITY ABOUT?

Military Mobility is an EU initiative to improve the mobility of military personnel, materiel and assets within and beyond the EU by addressing existing infrastructural and procedural barriers.

Existing barriers to military mobility



Infrastructure not suitable for the weight or size of military assets. Insufficient height or load capacity of bridges, insufficient load capacity of rail.



Regulatory and procedural issues. Lengthy and complex procedures, including customs formalities related to military operations, diverging national rules on the transport of dangerous goods in the military domain.

WHY IS MILITARY MOBILITY IMPORTANT FOR EU CITIZENS?

Improved military mobility brings more security to EU citizens in today's unstable world by:



Enabling the EU and its Member States to **react faster and more effectively**, in the context of the Common Security and Defence Policy as well as national and multinational activities, while fully respecting their national sovereignty and decision-making.



Facilitating the **deployment of military forces** for an EU-led operation (including using the EU Battlegroups or the new Rapid Deployment Capacity), other multinational operations (such as those led by NATO and the UN) as well as for exercises.



Helping Member States to find workable solutions to **remove the delays, administrative burden or traffic disruptions** in military movements within and beyond the EU.



Increasing the synergies between existing Union policies given that the EU Member States use the same transport infrastructure for both civilian and military movements and transportation, hence **military mobility also has benefits for civilian transport.**

The Russian invasion of Ukraine provides a new sense of urgency to ensure swift military movements within the EU to enable our armed forces to respond quickly to threats or emergencies.



WHAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE?

The **Action Plan on Military Mobility** launched in 2018 is implemented in a coordinated manner at the EU level, by the EU institutions and bodies – the Commission services, the European External Action Service, including the EU Military Staff, and the European Defence Agency, and in close consultation with the EU Member States.

Military Mobility is also supported through other defence initiatives, notably the **Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)** and is a flagship project within the **EU-NATO cooperation** framework as well.

The following has been achieved so far:



The Council approved the **Military Requirements**

for **Military Mobility** within and beyond the EU, including technical specifications and main military routes. They served to define the dual-use requirements and to support the work undertaken by the EU Member States to prepare their dual-use transport infrastructure improvements.



The Multiannual Financial Framework for the years 2021 to

2027 allocates for the first time **1.69 billion EUR for military mobility through the Connecting Europe Facility**, with 330 million for the first wave of transport infrastructure projects to be adopted in the first half of 2022.



The first Coordinated Annual Review on Defence

Report of November 2020 recommends to work on "**Enhanced Military Mobility**", which encompasses the need for improved resilience, lift capabilities and logistics, while taking into account hybrid threats to military movements.



Customs formalities for cross-border

military movements have been simplified while ensuring synergies with NATO.



Twenty-five participating Member States, as well as Norway have joined

the **European Defence Agency Programme** on "Optimising Cross-Border Movement Permission procedures in Europe". The Programme aims to harmonise Member States' cross-border movement procedures and speed up military mobility on land and in the air domain.



The European Defence Fund includes a topic on the **development**

of a **digital system for secure and quick exchange of information related to Military Mobility** in the 2021 annual work programme (2 topics under this call with a budget of 50 million Euro). This system will significantly facilitate and accelerate movements within the EU.



A new directive (2019/2235) adopted in December

2019 provides for a **VAT exemption** for military activities within the EU in the framework of the Common Security Defence Policy, thus ensuring equal treatment of defence efforts under NATO and under the EU framework from the fiscal perspective.



The **PESCO project on military mobility** brings

together 24 Member States, as well as the United States, Canada and Norway as third state partners, to improve and speed up national procedures.

To be eligible for EU co-funding, transport infrastructure projects must be useful for both civilian and defence purposes and be planned along the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T).

WHAT NEXT?

The Strategic Compass recognises the urgent need to substantially enhance the **military mobility** of our armed forces and commits to:

IMMEDIATELY

Accelerate the implementation of the dual-use transport infrastructure projects by frontloading the military mobility budget in the framework of the Action Plan on Military Mobility and the Connecting Europe Facility.

BY END OF 2022

Launch an **analysis of the EU transport infrastructure** capability to sustain short-notice large-scale movements.

IMMEDIATELY

Work to identify and agree on new actions in areas such as digitalisation, increasing cyber resilience of transport infrastructure and its support systems, as well as the use of artificial intelligence and air and sealift to improve military mobility within and beyond the EU **with a view to a revised Action Plan by the end of 2022.**

BY END OF 2025

Finalise the efforts to **improve and harmonise cross-border procedures.**

