



Role of and Connection between the EU, the WEU, and NATO

NATO (this comes from Nato's own definition of their role and purpose)	Consultation: NATO links North America and Europe by providing a forum in which the United States, Canada and European countries can consult together on security issues of common concern and take joint actions in addressing them.
	Defence: NATO is committed to defend its member states against aggression or the threat of aggression and to the principle that an attack on one or several of its members would be considered as an attack against all.
	Crisis Management: NATO-led forces have helped to end conflicts and are providing security and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo. NATO has also helped to prevent conflict in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
	Partnerships: Dialogue with non-NATO countries is helping to overcome the divisions of the Cold War era and to extend security and stability well beyond NATO borders.
WEU	<p>The WEU was dissolved into the EU in November 2000. This is, however, not obvious from its website, which still exists. It was essentially a military union. Its own website says:</p> <p>The signatories of the Paris Agreements clearly stated their three main objectives in the preamble to the modified Brussels Treaty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create in Western Europe a firm basis for European economic recovery; • To afford assistance to each other in resisting any policy of aggression; • To promote the unity and encourage the progressive integration of Europe. <p>Essentially the WEU has been superseded by the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy and the European Security and Defence Policy and the essential elements of the WEU mission as set out in the Petersberg Declaration are now part of EU policy.</p> <p>The General Secretary of the WEU is Xavier Solana who is also the Secretary General and High Representative CFSP of the Council of the European Union.</p>
EU	<p>The European Union was created as a primarily economic union of countries who thought that close economic co-operation was likely to assist growth in Europe and to prevent wars.</p> <p>It had no foreign policy and/or security and defence objectives at its outset.</p>

EU (cont'd)	<p>The concept of a common foreign and security policy appeared in the 1990s but it is not a unanimously welcomed concept. Some of the Member States are more comfortable pursuing their own foreign policy agenda. The recent Iraq war and the run up to it was a good example of this. The decision to develop the EU military capability was taken by the Council of the EU in January 2001 when it set up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Military Committee of the European Union (this is made up of the Member States' Chiefs of Defence). • The Military Staff of the European Union (this is made up of military personnel seconded by Member States to the Secretary General of the Council of the European Union). <p>Main roles of the Military Staff of the EU (brief summary only):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide military expertise • To provide <u>early warning</u> capability • To provide situation assessment • To plan, assess and recommend in matters of crisis management • To provide the military aspects of <u>strategic planning</u> of EU led operations • To review capability goals of Member States/the EU and the Member States who are NATO members
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The Connections

Country	EU	WEU (as per WEU website April 2004)	NATO
Austria	Yes	Observer	No
Belgium	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bulgaria	No	Associate Partner	April 2004
Canada	No	No	Yes
Czech Republic	1 May 2004	Associate Member since 1992	Yes
Denmark	Yes	Observer	Yes
Estonia	1 May 2004	Associate Partner	April 2004
Finland	Yes	Observer	No
France	Yes	Yes	Yes
Germany	Yes	Yes	Yes
Greece	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hungary	1 May 2004	Associate Member since 1992	Yes
Iceland	No	Associate Member since 1992	Yes
Ireland	Yes	Observer	No
Italy	Yes	Yes	Yes
Latvia	1 May 2004	Associate Partner	April 2004
Lithuania	1 May 2004	Associate Partner	April 2004
Luxembourg	Yes	Yes	Yes
Norway	No	Associate Member since 1992	Yes
Poland	1 May 2004	Associate Member since 1992	Yes
Portugal	Yes	Yes	Yes
Romania	No	Associate Partner	April 2004
Slovakia	1 May 2004	Associate Partner	April 2004
Slovenia	1 May 2004	Associate Partner	April 2004
Spain	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sweden	Yes	Observer	No
The Netherlands	Yes	Yes	Yes
Turkey	No	Associate Member since 1992	Yes
United Kingdom	Yes	Yes	Yes
United States	No	No	Yes