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E-002925/2025

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(29.8.2025)

Security in Europe and security in the Indo Pacific are interconnected. Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine is a blatant violation of international law and the United Nations Charter. China continues to be an enabler for Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine; without its support, Russia would be unable to continue waging the war to the same extent. The EU made a clear call for China to live up to its responsibility at the EU-China Summit on 24 July 2025<sup>1</sup>.

Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine has challenged the European security architecture, with an impact on public opinion. According to the results of the European Parliament's Winter Eurobarometer survey<sup>2</sup>, there is broad acceptance among the public for EU efforts in security and defence and large majorities of European citizens are looking for an EU that protects them against global crises and security risks. Moreover, in light of the results of the Spring Standard Eurobarometer 103<sup>3</sup>, 77% of European respondents agree that Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine is a threat to the security of the EU.

Under Articles 42–46 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) is developed by the Council acting unanimously, with all Member States involvement. Cooperation between the EU and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is guided by Article 42(2) TEU, successive Joint Declarations (2016, 2018, 2023), and European Council conclusions, which consistently underline that such cooperation takes place 'in full respect of the security and defence policy of all Member States'. Austria's constitutional neutrality and national foreign policy is fully compatible with its EU membership and engagement in CSDP.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/07/24/25th-eu-china-summit-eu-press-release/>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3492>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3372>.