



## The US National Security Strategy 2025 and the Transatlantic Misalignment: Implications for the European Union

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The publication of the new US National Security Strategy (NSS) is interpreted as yet another American effort to try to subjugate the European Union to the policies and interests of the United States, and one that dismantles the basis of the previously existing good cooperation, thus consummating the misalignment of common Western interests.

The American security strategy announces the **end of an era of fruitful transatlantic cooperation** that was governed by mutual respect and the defense of the principles of liberal democracy and multilateralism, under the aegis of the principles of the United Nations (UN) Charter. Furthermore, the American document enshrines a new strategic posture that appears to be **hegemonic and isolationist** on the part of the US.

This NSS reaffirms the **MAGA** (Make America Great Again) policy with an exacerbated focus on exclusively American national interests, while defending principles that are misaligned with democratic values and its traditional allies, demonstrating a deep contempt for the basic rules of international law.

## I. The Preference for a Distinct Strategic Cooperation

The new NSS demonstrates the US preference for building closer cooperation with its adversaries, with the “search for strategic stability with Russia” accompanied by a disconcerting benevolent neutrality towards its enemies and adversaries.

This option comes at the expense of continuing to deepen cooperation with its traditional European allies, who are now described as obsolete, in economic stagnation, and undergoing a process of civilizational erosion.

The document provides for a guarantee of continued American free access to strategic locations on European soil and the possibility of **intervention in the internal policies** and the conduct of national policies of European countries. It manifests itself in the encouragement of European fragmentation and the exhortation to national independence, as well as in the support for the influence of the so-called "patriot" parties (suspected of Russian financing) and far-right policies in European countries. In essence, the American strategy promotes European nationalisms and the breakup of the EU, following a "divide and rule" logic.

In reality, the EU continues to be recognized as an economic power, thus becoming a threat to American power and the only means for European states to remain relevant in the current international political and security context.

## II. The Challenge to the International Order and the Abandonment of Commitments

Implicitly, the American strategy **calls into question the principle of political and territorial independency** of the sovereign state. This is evidenced not only by the possibility of the already announced political interventions but also by the demonstrated support for the Russian aggression in the invasion of Ukraine and the announced plans for possible American occupation actions in Panama and Greenland.

The affirmation of the promotion of American pacifism through **peace through strength** is also alarming, while important naval, land, and air forces are placed on Venezuela's borders under the pretext of an alleged anti-drug fight.

The Trump administration is thus preparing **to unleash another unequal war**, more with the intention of defeating an adverse ideology and gaining access to mineral and energy resources than to promote the alleged security over the distribution of narcotics.

The **American abandonment of Ukraine** is very concerning, as it is left to its fate after having been promised clear and continued support in its efforts to resist Russian aggression and invasion. This is not the first time that the US has abandoned and misled its allies, with significant repercussions for the international system. This happened with the Shah of Persia, in Iraq, and in Afghanistan, to mention just a few examples. This pattern of American behavior repeatedly signals to its allies that they are disposable and mere pawns on the chessboard of the "superior" American interest.

In this national security strategy, the Trump administration also presents **alarming signs of its imperialist tendency and deviation from democratic principles**, continuing its drift towards an autocratic system with totalitarian undertones.

Significantly, the published document includes **corrosive and derogatory criticisms** of the democratic political systems of the EU and European countries. These American criticisms are only intended to disguise its own anti-democratic symptoms, clearly manifested in its disregard for freedom of opinion and expression, the prohibition of access to the White House for certain media outlets that are not subservient to it, the disregard for the decisions of judicial bodies, the summary detentions and expulsion of American citizens, refugees, and migrants, both legal and illegal, political persecutions, and the use of policies considered to be terror, among others.

### III. Implications for the EU and the Need for Strategic Autonomy

The new American national security strategy is characterized by its **arrogant, anti-democratic, imperialist, and abusive tone** of the principle of sovereign equality among states. It represents a threat to Europe, NATO, and potentially, to global stability.

Given the scenario expressed in this NSS, it becomes imperative that the EU quickly reach a consensus on its security and defense, defining a vision for its future. A future for all Europeans that ensures the preservation of their principles, liberal democracy, and the security of their inhabitants. A future consistent with the aspirations of the majority of European citizens, where **it is not forced to succumb to the paralyzing dictatorship of internal minorities** or yield to threats from external actors.

The time has come for European countries that are not part of the EU, but also for those that are already members, **to decide whether or not they wish to be part of the current common European project**. The perspective of the threats facing Europe and the current security and defense needs clearly exceed the exclusively national capacities of each European country. The current international threats are relevant enough to demand a clear and unequivocal decision from each European state in this area, at the risk of being left out of the new European security and defense architecture, which poses a risk to themselves and to the European Union as a whole.

The time has come for the European Union to **guarantee truly effective support for Ukraine**, in its capacity as an aggressed and invaded sovereign country and as the first line of European defense against hegemonic Russian imperialist onslaughts.

The time has come for the EU to assume its role as the guarantor of its own security, without fear of Russian or other threats that have paralyzed the Union, and without depending on American aid, which, in the current context, would hardly be reliable. It is fundamental to move towards a **true strategic autonomy and autonomous security of the European Union**.

The EU must, however, keep open the possibility of a post-Trump world where the US might reverse this anti-democratic and hegemonic drift.

The memory and experience of two Great Wars on European soil in the last century, fostered by expansionist national interests and hegemonic attempts that resulted in unprecedented destruction and death, demand that preventive action be taken to ensure they are not repeated. It is thus important for Europeans to do what is necessary so that similar threats do not prevail, whether they come from Russia or from their still American allies.