

## ↓ RECOMMENDATIONS

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- 1 Put Peace Policy at the Heart of Europe’s “Strategic Autonomy”** Global challenges such as the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change require non-military responses. That is why Europe’s “strategic autonomy” should stress the civil components of foreign and security policy.
- 2 Find Creative Ways to Resolve Conflicts in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus** The EU must respond to wars and conflicts involving de facto regimes with greater determination. It has the economic power to create incentives for conflict parties willing to seek compromise. It should explore the potential for negotiations, which will necessarily require the involvement of Russia.
- 3 A Multivalent Approach to Relations with China** While relations with Beijing remain difficult, the EU should make use of the potential for cooperation in selected policy fields. At the same time, the People’s Republic must commit to norms and fundamental principles of the international order, including human rights.

- 4 Create a Covid Peace Dividend: Reduce Military Spending, Finance Measures to Address the Pandemic** Reducing levels of violent conflict and lowering military expenditure can free up enormous sums that can be used to tackle social inequality and reshape the global economy along socially and ecologically sustainable lines. This would make it easier to combat the consequences of the pandemic.
- 5 Solidarity in Combating the Pandemic in the Global South** The EU should provide financial transfers, cancel debt, make private enterprises responsible for their supply chains, and contribute to the equitable distribution of vaccines. Healthcare and social security systems need to be strengthened in ways that go beyond one-time measures.
- 6 Defending Democracy Better** Democracy is eroding worldwide. Polarization, efforts to combat terrorism, and policies designed to deal with Covid-19 are accelerating this trend. Civil and political rights must be protected and restrictions due to the pandemic removed as soon and as completely as possible once the requirements do not apply anymore. Parliaments and the public sphere must strengthened as places of debate.