



EUROPEAN ORGANISATION FOR STRATEGIC POLICY

STRATEGIC BRIEF · SB 04 / 2026

Europe's Indo-Pacific Security Partnerships: From Dialogue to Operational Value

A selective agenda for maritime awareness, cyber resilience, crisis management and trusted connectivity.

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EXECUTIVE JUDGEMENT

Europe should judge Indo-Pacific security partnerships by operational value and institutional continuity: shared information, compatible procedures, exercised crisis channels and resilient infrastructure matter more than the number of dialogues announced.

KEY FINDINGS

- European and Indo-Pacific security are connected through maritime trade, technology, supply chains and the defence industrial base.
- Recent EU partnerships create useful frameworks, but each requires a limited delivery agenda and senior oversight.
- Maritime domain awareness and cable resilience offer practical cooperation without alliance-style commitments.
- Partner diversity requires modular projects rather than a single template for the region.

A network of selective partnerships

The EU's partnerships with India, the Republic of Korea, Australia and other Indo-Pacific actors reflect a shared interest in international law, secure trade and resilience. Their value will depend on whether broad political language is translated into projects with owners, timelines and exercises. A modular approach allows each relationship to focus on the capabilities and political ambition it can sustain.

Maritime and digital public goods

Information sharing, counter-piracy, cyber incident response, cable security and port resilience can improve security without importing unrealistic mutual-defence expectations. Europe should connect existing naval activities, CRIMARIO tools and digital partnerships into a small number of interoperable services that partners can use during real incidents.

Institutional continuity

Partnerships weaken when activity depends on individual meetings or short funding cycles. Each priority relationship should have a senior steering mechanism, a public implementation record and a protected crisis-contact network. Exercises should test information release, political consultation and practical assistance rather than only demonstrate presence.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 01 Select three operational deliverables for every EU security and defence partnership.
- 02 Connect maritime-awareness platforms through agreed data and access standards.
- 03 Exercise cyber, cable and port-disruption scenarios with willing partners.
- 04 Create multi-year funding for ESIWA+, CRIMARIO and related implementation tools.
- 05 Publish an annual partnership delivery record with lessons and next steps.

DECISION AND MONITORING MATRIX

Priority	Decision horizon	Evidence of progress
Select three operational deliverables for every EU security and defence partnership.	0-90 days	Exercises completed
Connect maritime-awareness platforms through agreed data and access standards.	3-12 months	Information-sharing use
Exercise cyber, cable and port-disruption scenarios with willing partners.	12-36 months	Crisis-contact activation
Create multi-year funding for ESIWA+, CRIMARIO and related implementation tools.	Continuous	Delivery of joint projects
Publish an annual partnership delivery record with lessons and next steps.	Annual review	Exercises completed

INDICATORS TO WATCH

- Exercises completed
- Information-sharing use
- Crisis-contact activation
- Delivery of joint projects

SOURCES AND METHOD

This publication distinguishes verified institutional evidence from CERAX interpretation and forward-looking judgement. Principal public sources are listed below; all recommendations are the institutional judgement of CERAX.

- EEAS, EU-India Security and Defence Partnership
- EEAS, EU Indo-Pacific security and defence



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Independent analysis. Diplomatic judgement. European perspective.