

## **Compulsory military service in member states of NATO and EU is essential and long overdue.**

The new National Security Strategy from the White House should serve as a wake-up call for any remaining optimists: Europe needs to be ready to defend itself without relying on the US, should Russia choose to act aggressively.

To what extent are NATO and the European Union capable of, and committed to, defending themselves?

This means more than just military preparedness; it primarily requires that people in NATO and EU member states are able and willing to defend themselves.

Neither NATO members' contributions nor EU defence resources reveal how many personnel are prepared to defend Europe in the event of a Russian attack. The regulations on compulsory military service vary widely among Member States.

We need a unified framework for these services.

Anyone insisting this is solely a matter of national sovereignty either overlooks or ignores the gravity of the situation.

To maintain credible deterrence, we must think the unthinkable and do the seemingly impossible.