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Country: The French Republic

Committee: North Atlantic Treaty Organization(NATO)

Agenda(s): Nuclear Deterrence and Energy Security, Enhancing Cohesion: Addressing Military Duality within the EU

The Republic of France, being one of the few nations who possess nuclear weapons and also being one of the major powers in Europe, must address nuclear deterrence. The current national deterrence policy for France is only using nuclear weapons for defensive purposes and for the protection of France's interests, which align with the European interests. The French nuclear arsenal was created in the 1960s, which went against the United States of America's wishes which led the then President de Gaulle to withdraw from the integrated military structure of the alliance. After that in 1974 NATO declared the United Kingdom and France as nuclear deterrent powers in Europe strengthening the alliance, with the statement being renewed every year. Now addressing the current deterrence, the arctic circle is vital for NATO's deterrence policies, which would benefit France and other European nations in the long run.

France, also being a dedicated supporter for renewable and sustainable energy sources, especially nuclear energy, is an example nation for its statistics regarding renewable energy. According to the International Energy Agency, 74% of domestic energy production is derived from nuclear energy, with the rest being all renewable except for the 0.8% crude oil. However of course France's domestic energy production on its own cannot fully entertain its need for energy hence around half of the total energy supply(~49.8%) is renewable. France also currently has 56 active nuclear reactors, and 14 shut down reactors. Seeing these statistics it is obvious to see the French love for sustainable and renewable sources of energy.

When it comes to energy security, the recent war between Russia and Ukraine has significantly affected the way in which France and the rest of the European Union imported energy. In these current conditions it is imperative that we diversify energy sources in order to cut energy dependency on Russia right now and after things have cooled down. France sees different pipelines as options and their fair share of problems. France needs collaboration to solve these problems both with the EU and NATO. Another worrying factor is due to the dependency, European countries have started to use coal again. This could cause problems in the long run and also significantly affects climate change. Keeping all this in mind France believes there must be immediate discussion about the topic.

France also strongly believes in the military autonomy of the European Union. There is no need to mention the role of France in the European Union both politically and militarily, it is one of the leading powers. Having a glance at the numbers of troops, aircraft, or ships France is always seen in the top 3, which shows its dedication to the European Union and its security. However with all that, France is also a responsible, reliable and supportive ally for NATO. The goal of the strategic autonomy is not to wipe the United States of America from Europe, it is to lessen the burden of the USA and decrease the dependencies of European Nations to the USA. France believes that we can find ways for both the European Union to develop further and enhance its own cohesion, while also addressing the cohesion between EU and NATO, even though not every goal of NATO and the EU can align.

Regarding the Russian Ukrainian War, France sees the attack on Ukraine as an attack on key European values, also mentioned by the Prime Minister Gabriel Attal. France has been supporting Ukraine and also pushing for the European Union to do so, since the attack on Ukraine is an attack on European values and the French Republic will not shy from defending their and European interests. The French Government also supports sending troops to Ukraine and has pushed and continues to push for the involvement of the EU, which has caused disagreement within the EU regarding matters.

In conclusion, the French Republic has its own interests which need to be addressed while valuing their allies interests both in NATO and in the EU . France also believes action must be taken immediately for energy security and pushes for renewable and sustainable energy. Furthermore France is leading the charge for the strategic autonomy of the EU, and also for the dedicated support for Ukraine.

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