Adistant dream

Even if prudent, there will be no European army any time soon

BY KLAUS NAUMANN

Concerns are growing in many European countries. New threats depend on the United States and the security guarantees extended by the Atlantic Alliance. President Donald Trump’s decision to withdraw the US troops has marked the end of US reliability. Doubts about the Atlantic Alliance have produced a flurry of defensive thinking, but no vision of a European army. So what about it?

It is in this light, which failed in 1959 when the French National Assembly voted against NATO, that 2019 will be remembered as a year in which the European Union will have lost an opportunity to establish a unified European army.

Quite a few initiatives have been launched in recent years to develop EU armies. An especially significant German initiative was agreed at the Munich Security Conference (MSC). Other political ideas have popped up since the MSC on how to develop European Defence Cooperation (PESCO). In its tiny steps towards building common forces, however, EU armies are still defensive dreams of a European army.

Unfortunately, a new German initiative was agreed at the MSC, the PESCO."