

“Europe de la Défense”; a concept invented by the French, for Europe, but in the French way? This thesis aims to explore the meaning of this concept used by the President Emmanuel Macron in order to understand where its French-driven dimension stops and its European begins. By analyzing Macron’s speeches on defense matters since his first mandate in 2017, this study is divided in two by a breaking point in Macron’s foreign policy. The latter is a change in the President’s approach towards Russia in defense policy for the support of Ukraine in the context of the full-scale war. Thus, the first part will analyze the speeches before, and the second part, after. This study can provide an answer, a clarification of France’s intentions and in the creation of a “Europe de la Défense”. Perceived as serving only French interest, analyzing the speeches to see if it is and if a change occurs, could contribute to the understanding of this concept at the European level in a political context where defense matters are given increasing

importance. Utilizing a post-structuralist approach the thesis will implement Fairclough’s three-dimensional framework as a method. It relies on a definition of discourse as a social practice,

allowing the construction of a meaning thanks to speeches and their environment. In light of the analysis conducted, a shift toward a more European narrative of “Europe de la Défense” has been observed, portraying the President abandoning some national interest’s narrative in favor of a more common European one. Although France’s place is still promoted as a leader in defense matters, Macron is proposing a more attentive dialogue towards his European counterparts.