

**Question for written answer E-003335/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Petra Steger (PfE)

Subject: Follow-up to E-001535/2025 – Future role and funding of the EU Rapid Deployment Capacity

On 11 June 2025, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission, Kaja Kallas, replied to my written question on the future role and funding of the Rapid Deployment Capacity, tabled on 15 April 2025. In her reply, she described this 5000-strong force as a ‘robust and scalable military instrument’, which is operational and can be deployed swiftly ‘to respond to crises outside the EU’¹.

Aside from the fact that the term ‘scalable’ seems expressly open-ended and suggests this capacity could be expanded or even covertly extended in future, the question also arises as to how a force with Austrian soldiers, who are not allowed to participate in military conflicts in any way because of Austria’s constitutionally guaranteed permanent neutrality, could, as claimed, be ready for rapid deployment.

1. Is the Commission planning to expand the EU RDC in the medium or long term, or can this be ruled out?
2. Does it indeed consider Austrian soldiers to be operational within the EU RDC, meaning they could be swiftly deployed to respond to crises outside the EU, even though this would be contrary to Austria’s constitutionally guaranteed permanent neutrality?
3. How many Austrian soldiers currently form part of the EU RDC and according to what criteria were they selected by whom?

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¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-001535-ASW_EN.html