

Question for written answer E-004647/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Nikolaos Anadiotis (NI)

Subject: Increase in defence spending and social security implications of activating the ‘escape clause’

According to the new EU economic governance framework, Member States are permitted to activate the so-called ‘national escape clause’ to increase their defence spending up to a certain percentage of GDP without this being considered a fiscal deviation.¹ The clause is activated due to geopolitical developments and the need to strengthen European defence.²

However, there is concern that the increase in defence spending could cause budgetary pressures. In Member States with high public debt and vulnerable social security systems, such as Greece, the possible knock-on effect of these on the welfare state through changes in pensions, contributions or other social benefits, will have serious implications, the assessment of which is imperative.³

In view of the above and given the fundamental importance of protecting pensions and social security:

1. What guarantees is the Commission implementing to ensure that the increase in defence spending does not lead to a burden on insured persons or to reductions in social and pension benefits?
2. Does the Commission have an assessment of the impact of the escape clause on the sustainability of pension and social security systems, and does it intend to carry out a study on this?
3. Will it ask Member States that activate the clause for data on the impact of defence spending on their social policies?

Submitted: 20.11.2025

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/national-escape-clause-for-defence-expenditure-nec>

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/03/06/european-council-conclusions-on-european-defence>

³ <https://www.age-platform.eu/joint-statement-the-eu-must-protect-welfare>