

Question for written answer E-002890/2026

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 144

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Subject: Preparation of a blueprint for the implementation of the mutual assistance clause

One of the topics discussed at the informal meeting of the European Council which took place in Cyprus on 23-24 April 2026 was the functioning of the mutual assistance clause provided for in Article 42(7) TEU and specifically how the clause could be applied in practice. During the meeting, the EU High Representative updated Member State leaders on the ongoing work being done on this matter¹. The EU leaders asked the Commission to prepare a blueprint on how the hitherto unclear mutual assistance clause would be applied in practice².

Bearing in mind that the mutual assistance clause must be implemented in a timely and credible manner, particularly in crisis situations which may not yet constitute armed aggression but present a direct and serious risk of escalation, can the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy answer the following:

1. What are the main operational features of the plan that is being prepared and when will the plan be ready?
2. Will the plan provide for predefined mechanisms for rapid military, operational and administrative assistance to Member States facing immediate security threats?
3. Does the Commission intend to ensure that the plan currently being prepared will contain special operational provisions for Member States, such as Greece and Cyprus, which face persistent revisionist threats or the risk of regional destabilisation?

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¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/european-council/2026/04/23-24/>, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2026/04/24/remarks-by-president-antonio-costa-at-the-press-conference-following-the-informal-meeting-of-heads-of-state-or-government-of-23-24-april-2026/>, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_26_882

² <https://www.reuters.com/business/aerospace-defense/eu-prepare-blueprint-mutual-assistance-pact-amid-nato-doubts-2026-04-24/>, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/apr/24/europe-defence-nato-us-donald-trump>.