

EN

E-001782/2024

Answer given by Mr Kubilius
on behalf of the European Commission
(17.12.2024)

The Commission presented on 5 March 2024 a European Defence Industrial Strategy (EDIS)¹ and proposed a European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP)². EDIS points to the need for Member States to spend more, better, together, and European.

As per the Commission proposal for EDIP, EUR 1.5 billion would be allocated to support eligible actions along the life cycle of defence systems. EDIP will complement the European Defence Fund (EDF)³ and provide support for collaborative research and development, industrial ramp-up, joint procurement, maintenance up to joint ownership of capabilities.

As EDIS indicated, the proposed budget has to be considered as limited in scale. EDIS also stressed that the lending policy of the European Investment Bank should be changed to allow better access to finance for the defence sector.

A reform of EU fiscal rules was recently adopted in April 2024⁴. The new rules strengthen the incentives for Member States' investment, including, where necessary, to build-up defence capabilities.

The President of the Commission stated in the political guidelines 2024-2029 that the frame of the new approach in the area of defence and the identification of EU's investment needs will be outlined in a White Paper on the Future of European Defence⁵ to be presented in the first 100 days of the new mandate. She also pointed to the need to build up the EDF investing in high-end defence capabilities in critical areas and to reinforce EDIP while working on creating a true single market for defence.

Finally, borrowing to finance expenditure would require the unanimous agreement of Member States.

¹ https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/edis-our-common-defence-industrial-strategy_en

² https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/edip-future-defence_en

³ https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/european-defence-fund-edf-official-webpage-european-commission_en

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2024/1263 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2024 on the effective coordination of economic policies and on multilateral budgetary surveillance and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 1466/97, OJ L, 2024/1263, 30.4.2024; and Council Regulation (EU) 2024/1264 amending Regulation (EC) No 1467/97 on speeding up and clarifying the implementation of the excessive deficit procedure, OJ L, 2024/1264, 30.4.2024.

⁵ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en?filename=Political%20Guidelines%202024-2029_EN.pdf