

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000729/25
to the Commission
Erik Kalinák (NI)
(18 February 2025)**

Subject: Summit on Ukraine and Security in Europe — the Commission's mandate

The Summit on Ukraine and Security in Europe was held on 17 February 2025 in Paris. The summit, organised by the French President, was attended by selected Member States and the United Kingdom. According to media reports, the main topic under discussion was the deployment of troops from the participating states to the territory of Ukraine. Not all Member States were invited to the summit, but top EU officials, namely the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission, were present.

In the light of the foregoing:

1. What was the reason for the Commission President's attendance at a summit of selected states, given that the main topic of the meeting does not fall within the EU's competences?
2. When and how did the Commission receive a mandate from the Council of the European Union to attend and in any way speak on behalf of the EU at the summit convened by Emmanuel Macron?

Submitted: 18.2.2025

**Answer given by President von der Leyen on behalf of the European Commission
(28 May 2025)**

The discussions at the Summit in Paris on 17 February 2025 covered Europe's defence and security, including the need to strengthen the European defence technological and industrial base. In addition, participants emphasised the need to step up the overall support to Ukraine, and to maintain economic pressure on Russia, including through sanctions.

The President of the Commission is responsible for ensuring the external representation of the EU when matters fall outside the scope of the common foreign and security policy and relate to other EU policy fields ⁽¹⁾.

The President of the Commission is therefore responsible for ensuring the external representation of the EU with regards to various work strands of support to Ukraine, including, among others, financial assistance and humanitarian support. Furthermore, matters related to the EU's defence industry also fall within the scope of competences of the Commission, which plays a crucial role in assisting Member States to boost their defence industries — a prerequisite for any militarily capable and well-equipped Europe.

The invitation to participate underscores the Commission's distinct and important role in these discussions.

⁽¹⁾ Article 17(1) of the Treaty on European Union, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/teu_2012/oj/eng.