

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001065/25
to the Commission
Lynn Boylan (The Left), Kathleen Funchion (The Left)
(12 March 2025)**

Subject: ‘ReArm Europe’ package and the use of cohesion programmes and funding for defence

In the recent announcement of the ‘ReArm Europe’ package, Commission President von der Leyen stated that there would be ‘possibilities and incentives’ for Member States to be allowed to use cohesion policy programmes to increase defence spending.

Prior to this announcement, did the Commission:

1. Conduct an impact assessment on the effects of this policy on social cohesion across the EU?
2. Consult directly with communities and groups who currently benefit from cohesion funding, and who may now face cuts to such funding?
3. Consult with arms companies who would increase their already exorbitant profits if this decision takes effect?

Submitted: 12.3.2025

**Answer given by Mr Kubilius on behalf of the European Commission
(3 July 2025)**

The ReArm Europe Plan foresees the possibility to incentivise defence-related investments in the EU budget. This has been deemed necessary to support Member States’ defence readiness as underlined in the Joint White Paper for European Defence — Readiness 2030 ⁽¹⁾.

The ReArm Europe Plan has been devised, in light of the current geopolitical tensions, by the Commission to respond to a European Council tasking, notably to present a set of ‘developed options [...] for public and private funding to strengthen the defence technological and industrial base and address critical capability gaps’ ⁽²⁾.

As part of this plan, the Commission adopted on 1 April 2025 measures to address strategic challenges in the context of the mid-term review ⁽³⁾ of cohesion policy funds via amendments to existing cohesion policy regulations.

Those aims at incentivising Member States to voluntarily adjust their cohesion programmes to invest in the EU’s emerging strategic priorities.

In particular, the proposal enables Member States to make better use of current possibilities to build resilient infrastructures to foster military mobility and to support and enhance productive capacities of small and large enterprises in the defence sector. Furthermore, the proposal will also encourage skills development in the defence industry to narrow the existing skills gap.

All proposals by the Commission respect the procedures foreseen in terms of impact assessment and stakeholder consultations, as outlined in the appropriate Commission Staff Working Document ⁽⁴⁾.

Rules for adoption of cohesion policy programme amendments are not modified and therefore will be subject to approval by the monitoring committees as applicable to ensure scrutiny by stakeholders.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6d5db69-e0ab-4bec-9dc0-3867b4373019_en?filename=White%20paper%20for%20European%20defence%20%E2%80%93%20Readiness%202030.pdf.

⁽²⁾ European Council conclusions, 27 June 2024 (conclusion 26, p. 8).

⁽³⁾ COM(2025)123 final; https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/communication/mid-term-review-2025/communication-mid-term-review-2025_en.pdf.

⁽⁴⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/d0bbd77f-bee5-4ee5-b5c4-6110c7605476_en?filename=swd2021_305_en.pdf.