

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001291/25
to the Commission
Petra Steger (PfE)
(27 March 2025)

Subject: Questionable European intelligence service reports on an impending Russian attack on the EU as a pretext for debt-financed arms build-up programmes

The threat posed by Russia, despite its rather limited military successes after more than three years of war in Ukraine, is being deliberately exaggerated in EU propaganda in order to instil maximum fear in the European population and create a supposed need for debt-financed arms build-up programmes costing billions. For instance, citing European intelligence service reports, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas have been warning for months about an attack by Russia on EU Member States that may be in the offing over the next few years. Those intelligence service reports also form the basis for the Commission's case for the EUR 800 billion 'ReArm Europe' military build-up plan presented on 4 March 2025. However, no mention is made by those in charge of what this supposed attack might specifically involve or how Russia's army, which is not in good shape, would be able to make such a threat a reality.

1. What are the specific European intelligence service reports that are cited by the Commission, and what solid evidence and information is there that backs up its alarming warnings?
2. How does the Commission justify the potential misuse of unrealistic intelligence service reports to provide grounds for a debt-financed arms build-up programme costing billions?
3. What other security threat analyses have been contracted by the Commission, and how high do they assess the likelihood of an actual attack by Russia on EU Member States?

Submitted: 27.3.2025

Answer given by Mr Kubilius on behalf of the European Commission
(24 June 2025)

The intelligence threats assessments of the Member States remain outside the remit of the Commission. Therefore, the Commission is not in a position to evaluate or assess them.

The Commission officials, in their public statements, have been referring to open-source information in which Member States' intelligence services assessed the probability of Russian aggressive actions against the EU as likely in a five-year perspective.

Commission defence industry programmes and instruments aimed at boosting European defence are proposed in the context of growing threats to European security which are proliferating in a way that poses an acute challenge to the EU way of life. This was the case even before Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

However, the Russian full-scale war of aggression against Ukraine has forced the EU and its partners to confront the reality of high-intensity war returning on the European continent on a scale never seen since 1945. Consequently, in the Commission assessment the only way the EU can ensure peace is to gain the ability to deter those who could harm the EU.

Therefore, in March 2025, the Commission and the High Representative/Vice-President presented jointly the White Paper for European Readiness 2030 ⁽¹⁾ and the President of the Commission previously proposed the ReArm Europe Plan that lays down sound funding foundations to support a surge in defence.

This long-term endeavour will enable the Member States to build up their armed forces to face any scenario, including the most extreme military contingencies.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025JC0120>.