

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001352/25
to the Commission
Marlena Małąg (ECR)
(2 April 2025)**

Subject: Poland's security in the context of European defence

Point 23 of the European Council conclusions of 20 March 2025 stresses 'the specific character of the security and defence policy of certain Member States, and takes into account the security and defence interests of all Member States, in accordance with the Treaties'.

In addition, the European Parliament resolution of 12 March 2025 on the White Paper on the future of European defence, in paragraph 66, calls for 'the creation of a council of defence ministers and for the move from unanimity to qualified majority voting for decisions in the European Council, the Council of Ministers and EU agencies'.

There is a good deal of controversy around the issue of how the EU institutions will interpret these provisions. Given the attitude of Western European countries which, despite the calls from the countries of my region in the period before Russia's full-scale aggression, continued to pursue their interests with the Russian Federation, I would like to ask the Commission:

1. What guarantees does the Commission intend to give those countries which are particularly at risk, such as Poland and other frontline states, if Western European countries take a different stance on security questions?
2. In the Commission's view, in the event of a threat from the Russian Federation, will Member States such as Poland be free to make decisions on their security and on the actions of their national armed forces?
3. What action does the Commission intend to take to minimise any potential threats to the interests of Poland and other countries bordering the aggressor?

Submitted: 2.4.2025

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

In the context of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), decisions related to security and defence are made by the Council of the EU acting unanimously.

The European Council provides strategic guidance and sets the overall political direction for the CSDP. Paragraph 1 of the European Council conclusions of 6 March 2025 ⁽¹⁾ is very clear on the agreement amongst Member States that Europe must become more sovereign, more responsible for its own defence and better equipped to act and deal autonomously with immediate and future challenges and threats with a 360 degrees approach. The role of the Commission in this field is clearly defined in the EU Treaties.

The Commission does not hold competences affecting the discretion of Member States to decide on actions of their armed forces. It is each Member States' decision whether and how to coordinate with other countries, and whether to enter into any bi- or multilateral agreements creating rights and obligations with regard to their security and their armed forces.

The Commission, together with the High Representative/Vice-President, put forward the White Paper for European Defence — Readiness 2030 ⁽²⁾.

It focuses on how to support Member States in filling their most urgent and critical capability gaps, backed by funding options presented by the President of the Commission on 4 March 2025 through the ReArm Europe Plan ⁽³⁾.

In this regard, it proposes actions and instruments in particular to financially support Member States, increase the European defence industrial readiness and work more closely with Ukraine and other partners.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/03/06/european-council-conclusions-on-european-defence/>.

⁽²⁾ 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.

⁽³⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_25_673.