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Answer given by Mr Kubilius
on behalf of the European Commission
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Member States are unanimously agreeing on European security questions, in particular through European Council conclusions. This ensures that the security and defence interest of each Member States are respected in any decisions relating to European defence.

Over the past years, the EU has agreed a number of defence industrial programmes and instruments, such as the European Defence Fund¹, European defence industry reinforcement through common procurement act², the Act in support of ammunition production³, or most recently the Security Action for Europe instrument⁴. Furthermore, negotiations are currently ongoing on a future European Defence Industry Programme⁵.

These programmes and instruments support Member States who are and will remain in the driving seat for their defence, in particular for identifying the capabilities required by the armed forces.

The legislative procedures governing the adoption of such programmes or instruments are in line with the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. All of these programmes and instruments are open to all Member States irrespective of the share of their gross domestic product that they spend on defence. Moreover, these programmes and instruments all include conditions to ensure that the security and defence interests of the EU and its Member States are respected.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/697/oj/eng>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2418/oj/eng>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1525/oj/eng>.

⁴ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202501106.

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52024PC0150>.