

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002202/25
to the Commission
Georgios Aftias (PPE)
(2 June 2025)

Subject: Is it possible for Türkiye to participate in the SAFE tool when it is threatening Greece?

The SAFE regulation was recently approved, despite strong reservations from the European Parliament. Türkiye, as a non-EU country, occasionally makes threats against a member state of the European Union, such as Greece.

The Prime Minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, has raised the issue of lifting the *casus belli*. The threat of war from Türkiye is ever-present, despite the fact that Greece, as is its right, applies international law and the law of the sea. The Minister for National Defence of Greece, Nikos Dendias, pointed out that ‘in order for Europe to exist, it must be based on common principles and a common understanding of the threat to the standard of life, otherwise it undermines itself’. Greek journalists record Turkish threats daily. Nikos Chatzinikolaou⁽¹⁾, one of the leading journalists in my country, recalled Article 42(7) TFEU for immediate assistance by other states if a Member State is attacked by another.

Given the above:

1. How is it possible for Türkiye to participate in the financing of defence programmes for common defence, when it systematically threatens the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Greece?
2. Will you request the immediate termination of any partnership with Türkiye if it does not remove the direct threats against Greece, an EU Member State, in accordance with Article 16(4) of the SAFE Regulation?
3. What measures will you take if Türkiye launches new threats?

Submitted: 2.6.2025

Answer given by Mr Kubilius on behalf of the European Commission
(19 August 2025)

Council Regulation (EU) 2025/1106 on Security Action for Europe (SAFE)⁽¹⁾ aims at financially supporting Member States to increase their defence readiness. Loans can only be accessed by Member States.

SAFE establishes eligibility conditions for participation of companies as contractors to common procurement under the Instrument.

Entities established in third countries or under the control of third countries (except for Ukraine and countries of the European Free Trade Association that are also members of the European Economic Area) are, in principle, not allowed to participate to common procurement under the SAFE instrument.

Entities established in the EU and controlled by third countries could only be eligible to participate in the common procurement as contractors if they fulfil security based conditions or if they have been subject to screening within the meaning of Regulation (EU) 2019/452, and, where necessary, to appropriate mitigation measures.

In addition, the regulation states that for the purpose of procurements supported by SAFE, no component shall be sourced from a third country that contravenes the security and defence interests of the EU and its Member States.

The SAFE Regulation furthermore foresees the possibility for entities from acceding, potential candidate and candidate countries (other than Ukraine) and other third countries with which the EU has entered into a Security and Defence Partnership to participate as contractors to common procurements under SAFE only on the condition that the third country in question has concluded an international agreement with the EU as spelled out in Article 17 of the SAFE Regulation.

¹ <https://www.real.gr/ta-scholia-tou-nikou-chatzinikolaou/>
(¹) <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/1106/oj/eng>.