

EN

E-002209/2025

Answer given by Mr Kubilius
on behalf of the European Commission
(20.10.2025)

Türkiye cannot benefit from the Security Action for Europe (SAFE)¹ loans as only Member States can do so.

However, in accordance with Article 2(3), as a candidate country, Türkiye can join Member States in procuring jointly defence products.

In addition, the Turkish industry can provide, as any other third country entity, up to 35% of the estimated cost of the components of the end-product. Legal entities established in the EU and controlled by another third country or by another third-country entity may participate in the common procurement if subjected to a foreign direct investment screening or if the country of establishment provides guarantees.

Article 17 provides for the possibility for the Turkish defence industry to further participate in procurement actions, subject to the conclusion of a bilateral international agreement. On 23 June 2025, Türkiye expressed its interest to discuss such an agreement with the EU.

Under Article 218 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), the Council may authorise the opening of negotiations and, following the negotiations led by the Commission in the name of the EU, if successful, conclude the agreement. The European Parliament needs to be informed at all stages of the procedure and has to give its consent to the agreement.

At any rate, no component shall be sourced from a third country that contravenes the security and defence interests of the EU and its Member States. This provision will have to be applied by contracting authorities of Member States.

When it comes to the use of Article 122 of the TFEU as legal basis for SAFE, the Commission and the Council considered it as the appropriate legal basis for exceptional financial assistance to Member States, responding to crises or exceptional events.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/1106/oj/eng>.