

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002579/25
to the Commission
Kostas Papadakis (NI)
(26 June 2025)**

Subject: SAFE in name only: the EU regulation that will be paid for by ordinary people in blood, money, new and major sacrifices and significant adversities

The introduction of the SAFE Regulation is evidence of the EU's deeper involvement in dangerous war planning and a shift to the 'war economy', in the context of competition with Russia, China and the US. The regulation envisages the participation of 'like-minded third countries', such as Türkiye — a country which challenges the borders and sovereign rights of Member States such as Greece, while occupying 37% of the territory of Cyprus without recognising it.

In view of this, can the Commission say:

1. What view does it take of the fact that the SAFE Regulation intensifies competition between the EU and China, Russia and the US, promoting dangerous planning and a deeper involvement in war, actions which are already jeopardising — and harming — the safety ordinary people?
2. What view does it take of the need — which is at odds with the EU's war economy plans — to raise salaries and pensions, to reinstate 13th and 14th salaries and pensions for public sector employees and to increase health, education and welfare expenditure in order to meet the needs of workers rather than to finance groups in the EU's war industry, which, through their dangerous planning, create new avenues for profit, with unpredictable risks for ordinary people?
3. What view does it take of the fact that the SAFE Regulation involves so-called 'third countries', including Ukraine on the grounds of Russia's invasion and occupation of its territories, while Türkiye — a country which has, among other things, invaded and occupied territories of Cyprus, an EU Member State, since 1974 and which challenges the borders and sovereign rights of Greece — is participating in the same programme?

Submitted: 26.6.2025

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

The exceptional situation stemming from Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, and its consequences on the security environment, justifies that the EU takes urgent measures to establish a temporary instrument aimed at providing financial assistance to Member States.

The Security Action for Europe (SAFE) purpose is to support Member States that want to invest in defence industrial production to increase their defence readiness.

The Commission does not oppose or choose between security and welfare; and social policies remain high on its agenda. The Next Generation EU (NGEU) instrument⁽¹⁾ provides substantial financial means, e.g. via the Recovery and Resilience Facility⁽²⁾, rescEU⁽³⁾ and EU4Health⁽⁴⁾. At any rate, decision prioritising their policy agendas remain ultimately the responsibility of the Member States.

Participation of third countries to procurement supported by SAFE as buyers allows to increase the level of aggregation of the demand necessary to scale up the EU industrial capacity and at the same time, ensures that Member States participating to the procurement obtain better prices. Conditions for Ukraine and Türkiye industrial participation in SAFE are different.

Ukrainian industry gets a standing that is as similar as possible to that of the EU industry. By contrast, the Turkish industry can only be made eligible though a bilateral agreement needs to be signed between Türkiye and the EU.

The adoption of such an agreement rests with the Council, in accordance with the applicable legal basis and the decision with a vote to take place in line with the applicable legal basis and decision-making process.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32020R2094>.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02021R0241-20240301>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EL/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32022D0288#:~:text=Decision%20No%201313%2F2013%2FEU%20sets%20out%20the%20legal%20framework,an%20effective%20response%20to%20natural%20and%20man-made%20disasters>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/522/oj/eng>.