

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002959/25
to the Commission
Moritz Körner (Renew)
(17 July 2025)**

Subject: Defence expenditure

Given the evolving geopolitical situation and increasing national commitments to strengthen European defence capabilities, significant increases in defence spending are expected across the Member States in the coming decades.

What are the Commission's current projections for total annual defence expenditure by EU Member States for each year, from now until 2040?

Submitted: 17.7.2025

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(23 October 2025)**

Recent geopolitical developments have prompted many Member States to increase defence expenditure, consistent with long-standing EU recommendations, including the Joint White Paper for European Defence Readiness 2030 ⁽¹⁾.

According to available data ⁽²⁾, Member States defence expenditure in 2024 rose for the tenth consecutive year, reaching EUR 343 billion — 19% more than in 2023 — and equalling 1.9% of gross domestic product (GDP). Preliminary estimates suggest that in 2025, spending could reach EUR 392 billion or 2.1% of GDP.

This upward trend is expected to continue. This trajectory aligns with North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) defence investment pledge — 23 Member States are also NATO's Allies — to allocate 3.5% of GDP annually to core defence requirements and 1.5% to broader security needs by 2035 ⁽³⁾.

Security and defence remain national competences and the EU plays a complementary role by supporting national efforts and mobilising EU-level resources.

Measures proposed include leveraging EUR 650 billion through the Stability and Growth Pact's national escape clause, launching a EUR 150 billion loan instrument ⁽⁴⁾ for joint procurement, redirecting cohesion funds, and expanding the role of the European Investment Bank.

To ensure long-term financial stability and predictability in investments in defence and space, the Commission has proposed the establishment of a European Competitiveness Fund within the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

This fund will include a dedicated defence and space window with a budget of EUR 131 billion, providing a stable investment horizon through to 2034.

These initiatives can improve spending efficiency, foster interoperability of armed forces, and reduce defence market fragmentation across the EU.

⁽¹⁾ 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.

⁽²⁾ https://eda.europa.eu/docs/default-source/brochures/2025-eda_defencedata_web.pdf.

⁽³⁾ https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_49198.htm.

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