

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003114/25
to the Commission
Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)
(28 July 2025)**

Subject: Germany profiting at the expense of European security and defence

Türkiye is constantly challenging Greece's legitimate sovereignty and sovereign rights in the Aegean Sea.

Türkiye may have the quantitative lead in aviation, but Greece currently has the qualitative upper hand, with Rafale jets, a modernised F-16 fleet, advanced defence systems and highly trained personnel.

Ongoing investments are expected to strengthen Türkiye's quantitative advantage.

The power balance remains unclear, with Türkiye's quantitative lead being offset by Greece's technological and organisational superiority.

Recently, Germany approved the sale of 40 Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft to Türkiye. The aircraft will be built in the UK with German parts.

At present, while Greece does not have many AIP submarines, the ones it does have are high in quality, with upgraded impact capacity by means of new platforms. Türkiye is pursuing an aggressive quantitative expansion strategy, incorporating domestic design and AIP, for long-term growth.

German submarine technology was most recently delivered to Türkiye on 25.8.2024, when TCG Piri Reis (S-330), a Reis-class submarine (Type 214TN), was put into service with the Turkish Navy.

Türkiye is expected to receive a total of six German Reis-class submarines.

Based on Article 42(2) and (7) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), there is provision for European defence.

Would it not be more honest to have a clause nullifying European defence, given that Germany is making a fortune selling weapons to countries that are hostile to the EU and the rule of law?

Submitted: 28.7.2025

**Answer given by Mr Kubilius on behalf of the European Commission
(15 October 2025)**

When taking action, the EU is particularly vigilant in ensuring the respect of the allocation of competences, as enshrined in the Treaties and fully respects the specific character of the security and defence policy of certain Member States. The recent initiatives put forward to address EU defence readiness do not depart from this position. In particular, proposals in support of EU defence industry are based on Article 173 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union ⁽¹⁾.

Articles 42 to 46 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) ⁽²⁾ deal with the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). More specifically, Article 42(2) of the TEU foresees the progressive framing of a common EU defence policy. Any decision leading to a common defence shall be taken unanimously by the European Council.

The solidarity between Member States is reflected in Article 42(7) of the TEU, which sets out the obligation for Member States to provide aid and assistance in case one of them is the victim of an armed aggression on its territory.

In accordance with Article 29 of the TEU, Member States' national prerogative in terms of arms exports to non-EU countries are exercised consistently with Council's Common Position 2008/944 ⁽³⁾, last updated in April 2025. It is for Member States to ensure that national decisions in this regard conform to that common position.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/treaty/tfeu_2016/art_173/oj/eng.

⁽²⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:2bf140bf-a3f8-4ab2-b506-fd71826e6da6.0023.02/DOC_1&format=PDF.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/compos/2008/944/oj/eng>.