

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003243/25
to the Commission
Afroditi Latinopoulou (Pfe)
(14 August 2025)**

Subject: Using European Defence Fund resources to develop firefighting technologies

The European Union is facing increasingly serious challenges from forest fires, as is evident from the frequency and intensity of forest fires, especially in southern countries such as Greece. This grim reality makes it imperative to seek new and more effective ways to prevent and deal with these phenomena.

At the same time, the European Defence Fund (EDF) promotes, among other things, the research and development of dual-use technologies, which can be applied to both defence and civilian purposes, including civil protection.

Given that dual-use technologies, such as for example unmanned aerial vehicles (drones), can contribute to the prevention, detection and fighting of forest fires, the Commission is invited to answer the following:

1. Which specific European Defence Fund programmes provide for the use of resources for the development of dual-use technologies related to firefighting, including in particular the development of firefighting drones or more effective firefighting chemicals?
2. Is there the political will to finance research and development (R&D) in the field of firefighting technologies through the European Defence Fund, and if so, what are the eligibility criteria and the available funds?

Submitted: 14.8.2025

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

The general objective of the European Defence Fund (EDF) ⁽¹⁾ is to foster the competitiveness, efficiency and innovation capacity of the EU's defence technological and industrial base (EDTIB).

This contributes to strategic autonomy by supporting collaborative actions and cross-border cooperation, particularly involving small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and mid-caps.

The EDF also aims to strengthen the agility of defence supply and value chains, and better exploit industrial potential in innovation, research and development.

It encourages the participation of SMEs and non-traditional defence actors, including technologies with dual-use potential, such as unmanned vehicles, for which collaborative research and development (R&D) actions are underway.

The defence sector is demand driven, since Member States and associated countries remain the only buyers and end users of the defence technologies and products.

Consequently, the EDF annual work programmes aligns with the priorities set by the EDF programme committee, reflecting the needs of the armed forces of Member States and associated countries.

The programme committee has not identified firefighting as an area to be addressed. Nonetheless, several ongoing EDF R&D actions may have dual use potential, such as unmanned vehicles, and the resulting product could be used by Member States military to support in national calamities.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/697/oj/eng>.