

EN

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Answer given by Mr Kubilius
on behalf of the European Commission
(13.1.2026)

The Security Action for Europe (SAFE) instrument¹ aims at providing financial assistance to Member States to carry out urgent and major public investments in support of the European defence industry in response to the current crisis situation.

Only Member States can request such financial assistance in forms of loans, guaranteed by the EU's budget.

The SAFE instrument has an open architecture. It foresees the possibility for third countries to participate in common procurement, but also to conclude bilateral agreements with acceding, potential candidate and candidate countries and other third countries with which the EU has entered into a Security and Defence Partnership in order to open the eligibility conditions of the instrument.

Thanks to those bilateral agreements, defence industrial entities established in a third country would become eligible as contractors for procurements supported by SAFE, beyond the current rules foreseeing that the cost of the components originating outside the EU, European Economic Area, European Free Trade Association States and Ukraine shall not be higher than 35 % of the estimated cost of the components of the end-product.

The Regulation also foresees that no component shall be sourced from a third country that contravenes the security and defence interests of the EU and its Member States. When procuring with SAFE support, the contracting authorities supported by SAFE must perform this assessment.

On 23 June 2025, Türkiye expressed its interest to discuss such a bilateral agreement with the EU. The Commission is currently assessing this request.

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