

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003850/25
to the Commission
Piotr Müller (ECR)
(2 October 2025)

Subject: EU defence projects — solidarity and funding

The Commission is coming out with some big plans — from a ‘drone wall’ to a space shield — but as usual, there is no answer to the question of how to ensure genuine solidarity in their implementation.

The projects require the unanimous consent of all Member States, but countries located far from the Russian border may simply not want to finance solutions to what they perceive as an Eastern problem. The distribution of funds is even more concerning: experience shows that the main beneficiaries of EU defence programmes are generally two countries, France and Germany, which are the largest defence manufacturers in the EU.

If the Commission is serious about the security of Europe as a whole, it must show that this is not just about supporting a few large arms companies, but also about involving smaller and younger defence companies from a variety of countries. Without this, the EU ‘shield’ will look like yet another centralised project that will deepen divisions rather than bridge them.

In light of the above:

1. How does the Commission intend to convince countries far from the Russian border to jointly finance defence projects such as the ‘drone wall’?
2. How will the funds be distributed in order to avoid concentrating support exclusively in France and Germany, which already dominate the European defence industry?
3. Will the Commission ensure that young and small defence companies from a variety of EU Member States will have access to funding and a real share in the projects, and not just the major defence companies?

Submitted: 2.10.2025

Answer given by Mr Kubilius on behalf of the European Commission
(12 December 2025)

The ‘Preserving Peace — Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030’ ⁽¹⁾ clearly underlines that the proposed European readiness flagships require massive and coordinated investments into pan-European projects that will shield Europe as a whole and thus benefit all Member States.

The European Drone Defence Initiative, for example, will be designed with a 360 degrees approach. It will address threats that can reach any Member State.

Investments into European readiness flagships do not come from a single, central funding source, on the contrary, funding will come from diverse sources, public and private.

At EU level, possible defence industry related options for investments are the Security Action for Europe (SAFE) Instrument ⁽²⁾, the European Defence Industry Programme ⁽³⁾ (once in force), or the European Defence Fund (EDF) ⁽⁴⁾. These programmes have clear governance rules that will be observed.

Start-ups, scale-ups, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and mid-caps play an important role in the overall European Defence Readiness agenda.

EU defence initiatives encourage participation of smaller players and new defence actors. For example, nearly 40% of EDF beneficiaries are SMEs.

On 19 November 2025 ⁽⁵⁾, the Commission put forward a Defence Industry Transformation Roadmap, that will focus on the role of innovation and the opportunities of such companies.

⁽¹⁾ https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/readiness-roadmap-2030_en.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/1106/oj/eng>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52024PC0150>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/697/oj/eng>.

⁽⁵⁾ https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/document/download/513de692-d08c-40cc-80c3-cb6611ace178_en?filename=EU-Defence-Industry-Transformation-Roadmap.pdf.

This will include the issue of access to finance and contracts. Such an approach will be particularly inclusive and aims to promote and accelerate the thriving of national innovation ecosystems existing across Europe.
