

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003862/25
to the Commission
Dan-Ștefan Motreanu (PPE)
(2 October 2025)**

Subject: Reforming EU fiscal rules to enable strategic autonomy

According to economists from the Bruegel think tank, the current Stability and Growth Pact is ill-suited to the scale of investment required for the EU to strengthen its strategic autonomy. The pact's rigid quantitative limits discourage the massive public investments needed in defence, digital innovation, financial integration and access to critical raw materials. Without such investment, the EU risks remaining a 'scenario taker' in a world increasingly shaped by geopolitical rivalry between the United States and China.

The economists therefore propose reforms that would create the fiscal space for long-term strategic projects. These include temporarily lifting debt-financed investments from quantitative limits, granting greater flexibility to Member States with debt levels that pose little risk to financial stability, or even raising the Maastricht debt threshold from 60% to 90% of GDP. Such changes, while ambitious, could be implemented without a revision to the treaties, but would require political will and unanimity within the Council.

Given the urgency of ensuring the EU's security, resilience and influence in a shifting global order, what measures does the Commission intend to take to adapt the Stability and Growth Pact so that it supports, rather than hinders, the investments needed to boost the EU's strategic autonomy?

Submitted: 2.10.2025

**Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(28 November 2025)**

The Stability and Growth Pact has been fundamentally revised with the reform of the EU governance framework adopted in April 2024. The reformed framework aims at promoting sound public finances and sustainable growth through investment and reforms.

Under the new framework, Member States' fiscal policies are based on their own medium-term fiscal-structural plans. The fiscal paths put forward in the plans should aim at bringing and maintaining the government deficit below 3% of gross domestic product (GDP) over the medium term and putting Member States with the general government debt above 60% of GDP on a plausibly downward path by the end of the adjustment period. Member States may opt for a longer adjustment period, up to 7 years instead of the normal 4 years, underpinned by commitments to relevant reforms and investments.

In light of the heightened security concerns, in March 2025 the Commission communicated that Member States have the possibility to request the activation of the national escape clause envisaged in the revised Stability and Growth Pact, to support an increase in defence expenditure ⁽¹⁾. This flexibility is temporary (until 2028) and capped at 1.5% of GDP to safeguard debt sustainability.

⁽¹⁾ C(2025) 2000 final of 19 March 2025.