

EN

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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.1.2026)

The legal basis for the involvement of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency in counter-drone measures is Regulation (EU) 2019/1896¹. The Agency can provide technical and operational assistance to Member States, in particular in the field of European integrated border management, which includes border control and border surveillance as components.

The Commission is expanding the support to counter the risk posed by non-cooperative drones. The Commission plans *inter alia* to provide financial support to the Member States participating in the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (BMVI)² via the BMVI Specific Action '*Support for border management capabilities including drones (unmanned aircraft systems (UAS)) and counter-drone measures (counter-unmanned aircraft systems (C-UAS))*'. The supported measures aim to bolster the EU preparedness to counter the risk posed by non-cooperative drones in particular by focusing on the purchase of UAS and C-UAS in view of border surveillance.

The Commission has been providing financial support to the Member States for purchasing drones to be used in the field of border management³, internal security⁴ and research and innovation⁵. The funding provided to the Member States' programmes for border management and internal security focused on reinforcing Member States' border surveillance capabilities, including drones. Under the European Defence Fund⁶, the Commission co-financed research and development projects in the area of UAS and unmanned aerial vehicles operations and detection for a total of EUR 350 million.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32019R1896>; in particular Article 3(1)(a) covering also border control.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R1148>;

All Member States except Ireland, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, associated with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen *acquis*, may also apply.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R1148>.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R1149>.

⁵ All data on research projects, funding, beneficiaries and results can be found on Horizon dashboard: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/horizon-dashboard> and on <https://cordis.europa.eu/>.

⁶ https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/european-defence-fund-edf-official-webpage-european-commission_en; Together with its predecessor programmes European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP) and Preparatory Action on Defence Research (PADR), including projects in progress or completed.