

EN
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Answer given by Mr Kubilius
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.3.2026)

The Security Action for Europe (SAFE) Regulation¹ provides financial assistance to Member States for the acquisition of defence products or other products for defence purposes belonging to categories laid down in the Regulation, including counter mobility.

The Regulation makes also reference to applicable international law prohibiting the use, development or production of specific defence products. This is because the Regulation does not affect the rules of international law which prevail.

The international conventions on prohibited weapons such as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (Ottawa Convention) are ratified by Member States and are binding upon them, rather than upon the EU. Member States must thus use the SAFE loans in respect with these binding conventions.

Moreover, Articles 3(5) and 21 of the Treaty on the European Union² expressly refer to the EU obligation to respect international law.

International Humanitarian Law applies in all situations, including those of armed conflict as it is primarily intended to protect civilians, humanitarian personnel and victims of such conflicts.

The EU will continue to support and pursue the objectives of the Ottawa Convention in line with established policies. The withdrawing Member States remain committed to the humanitarian goals of the Convention and bound by their obligations pursuant to International Humanitarian Law, in all circumstances and regardless of the behaviour of the adversary.

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

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:2bf140bf-a3f8-4ab2-b506-fd71826e6da6.0023.02/DOC_1&format=PDF.