

EN

E-000393/2026

Answer given by Mr Kubilius
on behalf of the European Commission
(23.4.2026)

The European Defence Fund (EDF)¹, including through its European Defence Innovation Scheme², boosts cross-border cooperation across the EU by supporting collaborative research and development of defence products and technologies, including disruptive technologies, in line with commonly agreed capability priorities. In addition, the European Innovation Council accelerator – under the defence mini-omnibus³ – can support dual-use and defence technologies, including through equity investments. Moreover, the Defence Readiness Omnibus⁴ aims to enable quicker innovation cycles under the EDF.

To support Member States – as only buyers and users of defence products and technologies – in their endeavour to invest more and together in defence, the EU is backing joint procurement through the European Defence Industry Programme⁵. It also supports production ramp-up activities, enabling the required technologies to be made available at the necessary speed and scale.

The recent Commission proposal for a new Programme for agile and rapid defence innovation (AGILE)⁶ aims to support the rapid development of emerging and disruptive defence products and technologies, with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises, including innovative start-ups and scale-ups, to respond to the most pressing needs of Member States.

This holistic approach is expected to continue and expand, as set out in the Commission's proposal for the European Competitiveness Fund⁷, in complementarity with the proposed Horizon Europe programme⁸.

Overall, the EU aims to reduce fragmentation within the technological, capability and industrial landscapes, while ensuring a smooth transition from research to deployment and continuity across the full innovation cycles, as well as fostering synergies between civilian and defence research.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/european-defence-fund-2021-2027.html>.

² https://eudis.europa.eu/index_en.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/2653/oj>.

⁴ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025PC0822\(01\)&qid=1774518478081](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025PC0822(01)&qid=1774518478081).

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/2643/oj/eng>.

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_26_687.

⁷ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0555>.

⁸ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0543>.