

EN

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Answer given by Mr Kubilius
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.5.2026)

While the primary responsibility for countering hybrid threats lies with the Member States, there is a strong need for a coordinated response at the EU level.

In the Strategic Compass for Security and Defence¹, the EU set out actions to prevent, detect, deter and respond to malicious hybrid activities. Through ProtectEU² and the Preparedness Union Strategy³, the Commission is strengthening the EU's ability to anticipate, prevent and respond to hybrid threats across all sectors. This is complemented by the Directives on Critical Entities Resilience⁴ and on Network and Information Systems⁵, which enhance protection against sabotage and cyberattacks, and by the Digital Services Act⁶, which helps to counter online manipulation and protect the integrity of democratic discourse.

The Action Plan on Cable Security⁷ strengthens the protection of submarine data and power cables. The Action Plan on Drone and Counter-Drone Security⁸ sets out a comprehensive approach to protecting society against drone threats, including a voluntary EU counter-drone joint purchasing initiative. The Joint Communication on Defence Readiness 2030⁹ sets out clear objectives and milestones for achieving defence readiness by 2030. Two of its initiatives – the Eastern Flank Watch and the European Drone Defence – aim at integrating air defence, counter-drone systems, ground and maritime security measures and situational awareness to build a comprehensive European border defence capability combining civilian-military tools in cooperation with NATO. The Eastern Flank Watch aims to build-up the capacity of Member States on the Eastern border to face a wide range of threats, including hybrid operations, Russia's shadow fleet and the risk of armed aggression. It aims to fortify the EU's Eastern borders across land, air and sea, contributing to the security of the whole EU.

¹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/strategic-compass-security-and-defence-1_en.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025DC0148>.

³ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/circabc-ewpp/d/d/workspace/SpacesStore/b81316ab-a513-49a1-b520-b6a6e0de6986/file.bin>.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2022/2557/oj/eng>.

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32022L2555>.

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.

⁷ eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52025JC0009.

⁸ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52026DC0081>.

⁹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025JC0027>.