

EN
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Answer given by Mr Kubilius
on behalf of the European Commission
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Horizon Europe¹ is an over EUR 90 billion programme which covers vast areas of research and innovation, for example in clean transition and decarbonisation, digital transition, health, biotech, agriculture and bioeconomy. The Commission remains strongly committed to the funding of these priorities, through the specific programme implementing Horizon Europe².

This funding is not affected in any way by the support provided by the specific programme for defence research (the European Defence Fund³) which funds only activities with an exclusive focus on defence applications.

As outlined in the Preparedness Union⁴ and ProtectEU Strategies⁵, reaching defence readiness requires a whole-of-society approach. Accordingly, civilian research institutions can play an important role in the pursuit of civilian preparedness.

Furthermore, investments in defence research and development have positive spillover effects for the EU economy, boosting competitiveness, increasing the gross domestic product, and fostering innovation in critical sectors beyond defence, such as healthcare, energy and transport. This is also in the interest of European citizens.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/695/oj/eng>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2021/764/oj/eng>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/697/oj/eng>.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025JC0130>.

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A52025DC0148>.