

EN

E-002242/2026

Answer given by Mr Kubilius
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.8.2026)

The proposal for a Regulation establishing the Programme for Agile and Rapid Defence Innovation (AGILE)¹ includes clear reporting obligations in line with the Commission's Better Regulation² requirements. The explanatory memorandum and the legislative financial and digital statement accompanying the proposal provides for an implementation report and sets out several performance indicators which will support the assessment of AGILE's results.

The Commission recalls that the AGILE programme is designed to be implemented within the current Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)³. As such, the proposal cannot contain provisions concerning the future of the instrument beyond 2027, which would prejudice discussions in the context of the next MFF. At the same time, the Commission has sought to ensure a legal framework in its proposal for the future European Competitiveness Fund⁴ that includes a dedicated policy window on 'Resilience and Security, Defence Industry, and Space', encompassing activities in support of defence innovation. This would ensure the AGILE-type actions can be supported and potentially scaled up, provided this framework is endorsed by co-legislators, who are currently negotiating the text.

The lessons learnt from AGILE will be considered through the above-mentioned implementation, reporting and broader policy preparation work. This will allow the Commission to identify the most effective mechanisms to support defence innovation, informing the implementation of EU defence instruments, including the European Defence Fund⁵ and the EU Defence Innovation Scheme⁶, and the design and implementation of possible successor programmes.

¹ https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/programme-agile-and-rapid-defence-innovation_en.

² https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-making-process/better-regulation_en.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/eu-multiannual-financial-framework-2021-2027.html>.

⁴ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/access-finance/european-competitiveness-fund_en.

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/697/oj/eng>.

⁶ https://eudis.europa.eu/index_en.