

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001694/24
to the Commission
Miroslawa Nykiel (PPE)
(12 September 2024)**

Subject: Security and defence in the Member States

Putin's war of aggression in Ukraine has prompted the Member States to reflect on defence and to revise existing plans.

One of the main advantages military superpowers have over the EU in defence procurement is the common defence market, which enables efficiency and productivity gains, thereby bringing down costs.

Over the last decade, Moscow and Beijing have increased their defence budgets by close to 300% and 600% respectively. By contrast, EU Member States have increased defence spending by only 20%, and some have failed to reach their target as NATO allies of investing 2% of GDP in defence.

In the light of the above:

1. What additional resources is the Commission planning to set aside, or what investment programmes does it have in the pipeline, to help fund defence in the Member States?
2. Is it planning on setting up a European army to complement NATO and if so, what is the expected time frame for doing so?
3. What action does it intend to take to ensure that the defence industry and military production is located in the Member States, harnessing their existing potential?

Submitted: 12.9.2024

**Answer given by Mr Kubilius on behalf of the European Commission
(10 January 2025)**

The Commission supports initiatives to strengthen EU defence readiness and notably acts in support of the competitiveness of the EU's defence industry.

This includes supporting with the EU budget the ramping-up of the EU defence production capacity. This is without prejudice to the fact that the defence of the Member States' territory and citizens is primarily a national responsibility, including through allies' commitments in the context of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

There is no plan on setting-up a European army. Any reinforcement of the Member States' defence capabilities contributes to the effectiveness of the Member States's armed forces and to NATO's reinforcement, under the 'single set of forces' principle ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission is committed to ensuring that Member States can tap the full potential of the European defence industry. Through the European Defence Fund ⁽²⁾, the EU has already committed to date more than EUR 4 billion in support of joint defence research and development.

Since 2022, two additional programmes have been established, to support cooperation between Member States in the joint procurement of the most urgent and critical defence systems ⁽³⁾ and to support the ramp-up of the ammunition production in the EU ⁽⁴⁾.

In March 2024, the Commission presented the European Defence Industrial Strategy ⁽⁵⁾ and the draft Regulation for the European Defence Industry Programme ⁽⁶⁾.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-nato-cooperation/>

⁽²⁾ https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/european-defence-fund-edf-official-webpage-european-commission_en

⁽³⁾ https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/edirpa-procuring-together-defence-capabilities_en

⁽⁴⁾ https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/asap-boosting-defence-production_en

⁽⁵⁾ https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/edis-our-common-defence-industrial-strategy_en

⁽⁶⁾ https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/edip-future-defence_en