

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001157/25
to the Commission
Anna Brylka (P/E)
(19 March 2025)**

Subject: Eastern Shield

At a press conference in Brussels on 28 June 2024, Prime Minister Donald Tusk announced that he had obtained European leaders' agreement for EU co-financing of defence efforts as part of the East Shield. In February, he reported that the decision to allocate EUR 100 million to Poland had already been taken in December 2024.

In connection with the above, could the Commission answer the following questions:

1. What is the decision-making process for the allocation of funds for the East Shield project? In your answer, please indicate the deadlines and scope of the application submitted by Poland, as well as the current and anticipated steps in the Commission's decision-making process.
2. From which sources (transfers in the general budget, loans, national envelope, existing funds, projected funds, etc.) does the Commission intend to finance the implementation of this project?

Submitted: 19.3.2025

**Answer given by Mr Kubilius on behalf of the European Commission
(4 July 2025)**

The serious and persistent nature of the hybrid threats at the Eastern EU border with Russia and Belarus pose new challenges for the whole EU.

It calls also for a strengthened EU response, in full respect of EU and international law, which should be comprehensive, both addressing the threat of potential conventional military aggression and ongoing hybrid activities, including campaigns for weaponising migration and challenging the entire Schengen zone.

The White Paper on the European Defence Readiness 2030 ⁽¹⁾ acknowledges that the defence of all EU land, air and maritime borders is important, in particular as regards the EU Eastern border. The Eastern Border Shield project is a noteworthy exercise by a number of Member States to confront the growing challenges in that region.

The Commission would consider potential financial support for defence upon Member States request under the future European Defence Industry Programme ⁽²⁾, the Commission has engaged with Member States undertaking national efforts in strengthening EU external borders to explore possible options and the scope of potential support.

The Commission also supports Member States in ensuring strong European integrated border management and effective protection of the EU external borders through the Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI) ⁽³⁾. Activities related to the automated border surveillance systems are a substantial part of Poland's 2021-2027 BMVI programme.

The EUR 220.5 million allocated to the programme includes funding made available in December 2024 for 'Enhancing border surveillance capabilities for countries bordering Russia and Belarus' (currently being added to the programme) and will be increased by EUR 23 million from the mid-term review.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025JC0120>.
⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52024PC0150>.
⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32021R1148>.