

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001284/25
to the Commission
Siegbert Frank Droese (ESN)
(27 March 2025)**

Subject: Commission White Paper for European Defence — Readiness 2030

The Commission White Paper for European Defence — Readiness 2030 addresses the need to strengthen the European defence industry. As the current conflict between Ukraine and Russia shows, modern warfare is also a question of manpower. However, the White Paper primarily focuses on creating a better regulatory and financial environment for the defence industry. Furthermore, it makes reference to nuclear weapons only in connection with the threat posed by China and Russia — not in terms of Europe's own deterrence needs. There does not therefore seem to be any notion as to how the strategic plan set out in the White Paper is to help Europe counter the threats posed by these devastating systems.

1. Does the Commission consider that joint mobilisation remains the prerogative of NATO, given that the European defence strategy depends on the armed forces of its Member States?
2. EUROMIL — the European Organisation of Military Associations and Trade Unions — has called for the introduction of minimum standards for all European armies. Does the Commission regard that as a necessary step towards establishing a common European defence strategy?
3. Should the lack of a nuclear strategy in the Commission White Paper be construed as meaning that Europe is still dependent on NATO as regards nuclear deterrence?

Submitted: 27.3.2025

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

The White Paper for European Defence Readiness 2030 ⁽¹⁾ focuses on how the Union could best support Member States in filling their most urgent and critical conventional capability gaps.

In this regard, it proposes actions and instruments to financially support Member States (in particular through the coordinated activation of the National escape clause under the Stability and Growth Pact, and the proposed new instrument Security Action for Europe — SAFE), increase the EU defence industrial readiness, including through simplification efforts, or work more closely with Ukraine and other partners.

The Commission kindly notes that the questions submitted go beyond the scope of the White Paper for European Defence Readiness 2030. They also fall outside the competences of the Commission. It is the prerogative of Member States to decide upon mobilisation of their armed forces, regardless of the framework in which to deploy them (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, EU, United Nations, coalition, national, etc.).

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025JC0120>.