

(English version)

Priority question for written answer P-001514/25
to the Commission
Anna Brylka (P/E)
(12 April 2025)

Subject: The ‘East Shield’ project

Hybrid warfare has been raging on the Polish-Belarusian border — the European Union's external border — for more than three years. One aspect of this warfare is the continuous escalation of migratory pressure. Poland is implementing the ‘East Shield’ project to effectively secure the eastern border using its own funds. Information is circulating in public that the EU is also contributing to or will co-finance the ‘East Shield’ project, the cost of which is estimated at 10 billion PLN.

In light of the above:

1. Have any funds been allocated from EU funds to finance the ‘East Shield’ project on the Polish-Belarusian border? If so, please provide the amounts and the purposes for which they are being spent.
2. Is there a plan to allocate EU funds to the ‘East Shield’ project? In your answer, please include the schedule, amounts and detailed information on what activities will be eligible for EU funding.

Submitted: 12.4.2025

Answer given by Mr Kubilius on behalf of the European Commission
(24 September 2025)

The recurrent hybrid threats, in particular at the EU Eastern border, pose new challenges. To guarantee security and territorial integrity, Member States must be able to act decisively. A strong EU response is also needed, in full respect of EU and international law.

The Commission supports Member States in several ways.

First, the EU supports Member States to build-up their defence capabilities and increase their defence readiness, through its whole toolbox, that includes defence industry-related instruments.

Regarding the monitoring and reinforcement of the external border from a defence perspective, Member States could request financial support under the new Security Action for Europe instrument⁽¹⁾ or as part of the implementation of the future European Defence Industry Programme⁽²⁾, particularly since ‘The Eastern Border Shield’ has been identified by the White Paper for European Defence Readiness 2030⁽³⁾ among priorities.

The Commission has also engaged with Member States to explore additional options to support national efforts consented to strengthen EU external borders and the possible scope of magnitude of such support.

Second, more broadly, the EU could also support Member States’ borders through funding instruments, such as the Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI)⁽⁴⁾.

It ensures funding for effective integrated border management at the external borders, to facilitate legitimate border crossings, prevent and detect illegal immigration and cross-border crime and to effectively manage migratory flows, in accordance with Articles 77(2) and 79(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

For instance, activities related to the automated border surveillance systems are part of Poland’s 2021-2027 BMVI programme. The BMVI does not provide support to Member States’ defence activities.

In addition, the Interreg⁽⁵⁾ Poland-Ukraine 2021-2027 programme supports the improvement of border mobility and is investing EUR 50 million to reconstruct regional roads and rails along the Polish — Ukrainian border with view of their dual use application.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L, 2025/1106, 28.5.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/1106/oj>.

⁽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:52025JC0120>.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1148/oj/eng>.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32021R1059>.