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Answer given by Mr Kubilius
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.12.2025)

The Commission shares the Honourable Members' deep concern. Russia's violation of Estonian airspace is not an isolated incident but part of a deliberate pattern to test and undermine European security. The EU's security is under threat and defending it is a top priority for the EU and the Member States.

The Commission is mobilising EU funding for air defence. The Communication on 'Preserving Peace – Defence Readiness Roadmap'¹ designated air and missile defence a top capability priority. The Commission proposed the 'European Air Shield' as a European Readiness Flagship which builds upon the proposed European Drone Defence Initiative and Eastern Flank Watch. To fund this, the Commission will ensure that the European Defence Fund and European Defence Industry Programme dedicate significant budgets to air defence systems. The Security Action for Europe (SAFE) instrument² will help Member States procure these assets jointly, leveraging up to EUR 150 billion in financing.

Security and climate objectives are mutually dependent, not mutually exclusive. Without security, long-term climate goals are unachievable. Without tackling climate change, extreme events and devastations are inevitable. This is not an 'either/or' choice. Mobilising adequate resources for defence and using them efficiently is crucial. The Commission's proposal for a new European Competitiveness Fund for the next EU budget is informed by this recognition: support to defence industry is at the centre of one of the four policy windows – 'Resilience and security, defence industry and space'³ with an indicative envelope of EUR 131 billion for these priorities – ensuring effective funding to equip the EU for these pressing challenges and the new geopolitical reality.

¹ https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/document/download/9db42c04-15c2-42e1-8364-60afb0073e68_en?filename=Joint-Communication%20_Defence-Readiness-Roadmap-2030.pdf.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/1106/oj/eng>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0555>.