

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-004820/25
to the Commission
Michał Dworczyk (ECR)
(4 December 2025)**

Subject: Transparency and democratic scrutiny of Security Action for Europe (SAFE)

The Security Action for Europe (SAFE) instrument was adopted on the basis of Article 122 of the TFEU, which excludes Parliament from the legislative procedure, limiting it to having a consultative role. Until now, this article has not been used to create such an important programme covering strategic and sensitive areas of security and defence. The use of Article 122 weakens the principles of democratic control, transparency and institutional balance, particularly in the context of the allocation of significant financial resources. In response to these concerns, the Commission has repeatedly stressed that it will keep Parliament informed about the implementation of the SAFE instrument. In light of the principles of transparency, institutional accountability and the need to ensure public oversight of strategic processes, I would therefore like to ask the following:

1. How and by when does the Commission intend to make the content of the national defence investment plans (NDIPs) available to Members of the European Parliament?
2. Does the Commission provide for a mechanism for dedicated access for MEPs (e.g. a reading room), to what degree and level will MEPs have access to information and what is the timeline for sending these documents and information to Parliament?
3. If giving MEPs access — in full or in part — to the content of NDIPs is not possible, could the Commission please provide the legal basis for this and explain how it intends to ensure transparency, effective parliamentary oversight and real democratic scrutiny for the NDIP adoption process, the conclusion of borrowing agreements, adoption of operational plans and implementation of the SAFE instrument?

Submitted: 4.12.2025

**Answer given by Mr Kubilius on behalf of the European Commission
(23 January 2026)**

The Commission considers Article 122 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) as the appropriate legal basis for the Security Action for Europe (SAFE) Regulation⁽¹⁾ as it allows for exceptional financial assistance to Member States, responding to crises or exceptional events.

Article 122 TFEU allows the Council, in a spirit of solidarity between Member States, to provide EU exceptional financial assistance to a Member State in difficulties or seriously threatened with severe difficulties caused by exceptional occurrences beyond its control, on a temporary basis.

Within the implementation of the SAFE instrument, Member States were requested to present a formal request for financial assistance, accompanied by the European defence industry investment plans, by 30 November 2025. The European defence industry investment plans describe how Member States intend to use financial assistance and comply with the regulation's provisions.

As for any information related to national military planning and defence procurement, the European defence industry investment plans contain sensitive and/or classified information. The Commission may only use such information for the purposes stipulated in the SAFE regulation.

The SAFE Regulation establishes reporting obligations from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the use of the financial assistance. The reporting will be on an annual basis starting in 2026 and will provide information on such use in line with the principle of transparency.

Furthermore, the representation offices of the European Parliament may be involved in information and communication activities related to the SAFE instrument organised by the Commission, in line with the SAFE Regulation.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/1106/oj/eng/pdf>.