

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000873/26
to the Commission
Geadis Geadis (ECR)
(3 March 2026)**

Subject: The need to strengthen European support to the Republic of Cyprus in light of the developments in the Middle East

Military tension in the Middle East is directly affecting security in the Eastern Mediterranean, highlighting the region's increasing exposure to asymmetric threats, such as drone and missile attacks. These developments call for greater European cooperation to protect the security and resilience of the region, particularly bearing in mind the mutual defence clause in Article 42(7) of the Treaty on European Union.

In light of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it intend to push for greater defence cooperation and military support to frontline Member States, such as Cyprus, in the spirit of the mutual defence clause in Article 42(7) TEU?
2. Does it plan to provide support through technological means of cooperation and European surveillance systems with counter-drone air defence technologies to strengthen early attack deterrence and defence capabilities in the Eastern Mediterranean?
3. Is it considering the possibility of providing financial support to the Republic of Cyprus, which is a frontline country, to deal with the effects of the unstable environment in the Middle East?

Submitted: 3.3.2026

**Answer given by Mr Kubilius on behalf of the European Commission
(24 April 2026)**

The security and territorial integrity of all Member States is a core interest of the EU, which is actively supporting and coordinating Member States' efforts to strengthen their defence industrial base and the EU's overall defence readiness in a 360-degree approach.

Article 42(7) of the Treaty on European Union ⁽¹⁾ is an important and powerful instrument in this regard. In case of an attack on its territory, its activation is the responsibility of the attacked Member State. The Commission stands ready to support Member States in its implementation as necessary.

The Commission actively supports enhancing defence capabilities through technological cooperation and advanced surveillance systems, including counter-drone technologies.

The European Defence Fund ⁽²⁾ stands as a key programme facilitating the development of counter-drone systems, such as through European Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems ⁽³⁾ and Tactical Advanced Laser Optical Systems ⁽⁴⁾ projects.

Additionally, the European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP) ⁽⁵⁾ will further empower Member States to address their defence requirements.

Member States and industry will be able to seize funding opportunities for joint acquisition or industrial reinforcement projects in relation to drones and counter-drone capabilities.

EDIP also enables Member States to establish and receive funding for European Defence Project of Common Interest that could, for instance, organise the development, production and acquisition of drone and anti-drone systems.

Under the Secure Action for Europe ⁽⁶⁾ instrument, Cyprus has requested a total of EUR 1 181 503 924 in loans through this instrument. These defence investments will strengthen the defence posture of Cyprus against any threats.

⁽¹⁾ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:2bf140bf-a3f8-4ab2-b506-fd71826e6da6.0023.02/DOC_1&format=PDF.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/697 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the European Defence Fund and repealing Regulation (EU) 2018/1092: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/697/oj/eng>.

⁽³⁾ European Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems: https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/document/download/d2719294-4288-43b4-9093-a2bc6134ace4_en?filename=EDF-2023-DA-AIRDEF-CUAS%20E-CUAS.pdf.

⁽⁴⁾ Tactical Advanced Laser Optical Systems: https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/document/download/de830426-7142-4a72-961b-f7abcaa739b6_en?filename=EDF-2023-LS-RA-DIS-LDEW%20TALOS-TWO.pdf.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/2643/oj/eng>.

⁽⁶⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/1106/oj/eng>.