

(English version)

Priority question for written answer P-001617/26
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Michał Dworczyk (ECR)
(21 April 2026)

Subject: Geographical distribution of Capability Coalitions and closing critical defence capability gaps on the eastern flank

In the Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030, the Commission proposes closing capability gaps by 2030 by, among other things, setting up Capability Coalitions in priority areas. The aim was for Member States to establish these coalitions, designate leading and co-leading countries and adopt action plans by the first quarter of 2026.

Countries on the EU's eastern flank, including Poland, have the highest levels of defence spending and are a vital part of the EU's security system. Capability gaps in this region are therefore the most critical and must be closed first. However, the initial information on the geographical distribution of the Capability Coalitions is concerning. For example, despite Poland's unique experience and potential, it is not a leading or co-leading country in key areas such as drones and counter-unmanned aircraft systems (counter-UAS) ⁽¹⁾.

I would therefore like to ask:

1. Why is Poland not a leading or co-leading country in the coalition on drones and counter-UAS?
2. Which Capability Coalitions have been established and in which of those is Poland the leading or co-leading country?
3. For Capability Coalitions in which eastern flank countries do not have a leading or co-leading role, or in which none of these countries are involved at all, what are the reasons behind this and what actions will the Vice-President/High Representative take to involve them in the coalitions and ensure that critical capacity gaps in the most vulnerable regions are effectively closed as a matter of priority?

Submitted: 21.4.2026

Answer given by Mr Kubilius on behalf of the European Commission
(10 June 2026)

Defence capability development is the sole prerogative of Member States. Any decision to lead, co-lead or participate in a capability coalition rests entirely with the Member States. The Commission is therefore not able to reply to this question.

Member States identified nine priority capability areas under the EU Defence Readiness ⁽¹⁾ agenda (air and missile defence, artillery systems, ammunition and missiles, drones and counter-drone systems, military mobility, AI/quantum/cyber/electronic warfare, strategic enablers, including space, ground combat and maritime capabilities) and formed the respective capability coalitions. These voluntary, Member State-driven frameworks rely on participating countries to coordinate efforts and assume leadership roles.

Poland remains a key contributor to European defence readiness through defence investments, political engagement, operational experience, and strong contribution to Euro-Atlantic security. As all Member States, Poland can be part of any of the capability coalitions.

Eastern flank Member States remain central to strengthening the EU's defence readiness, resilience and deterrence, particularly in the context of Russia's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine.

¹ https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/defence-readiness-roadmap-press-remarks-high-representativevice-president-kaja-kallas-press_en;
<https://www.portal.hr/en/novosti/hr/100491-ek-predstavio-plan-za-obrambene-sposobnosti-zastita-od-dronova-vec-do-kraja-2027#>.
⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52025JC0027&qid=1779282967619>.