

**Question for written answer E-001645/2024
to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign
Affairs and Security Policy**

Rule 144

Kostas Papadakis (NI)

Subject: The responsibilities of the EU and national governments in the escalation of the imperialistic war in Ukraine

The EU'S Vice-President/High Representative, Josep Borell, has called for the full use of 'Western' weapons against Russia and for all related restrictions to be lifted. He had previously welcomed the Ukrainian army's incursion into the Russian region of Kursk, calling on EU Member States to speed up the delivery of Patriot air defence systems to Ukraine. At the same time, EU funding programmes continue to supply Ukraine with military support.

These developments are warning sings of a serious escalation and spreading of the war, three years after Russia's deplorable invasion of Ukraine and just as Russia is throwing more weapons at the conflict and reconsidering its nuclear weapons doctrine.

In view of this, can the Vice-President /High Representative answer the following:

1. Do the EU and national governments intend – despite the huge risk of the war spreading and the serious consequences this would have for countries – to continue granting military system licences to supply the Zelenskyy government with weapons, leading to an escalation in the imperialistic war in Ukraine?
2. What and how many new burdens and unbearable sacrifices (social spending cuts, higher energy bills, etc.) will the EU impose on the people of the Member States – who are already suffering the consequences of the imperialist war – with its shift towards a war economy that benefits big arms companies?
3. What amounts have the EU and Member State budgets already set aside for the reinforcement of defence monopolies in the EU and what is the total amount foreseen until 2027?

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