

**Priority question for written answer P-001694/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Security and defence in the Member States

Putin's war of aggression in Ukraine has prompted the Member States to reflect on defence and to revise existing plans.

One of the main advantages military superpowers have over the EU in defence procurement is the common defence market, which enables efficiency and productivity gains, thereby bringing down costs.

Over the last decade, Moscow and Beijing have increased their defence budgets by close to 300 % and 600 % respectively. By contrast, EU Member States have increased defence spending by only 20%, and some have failed to reach their target as NATO allies of investing 2 % of GDP in defence.

In the light of the above:

1. What additional resources is the Commission planning to set aside, or what investment programmes does it have in the pipeline, to help fund defence in the Member States?
2. Is it planning on setting up a European army to complement NATO and if so, what is the expected time frame for doing so?
3. What action does it intend to take to ensure that the defence industry and military production is located in the Member States, harnessing their existing potential?

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