



Defence and Security Policies in Europe

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Autumn 2025, Monday 1:30pm-3:30pm, Local P50

Questions

- 1) Why is cooperation 'essential to narrow technological gaps'? What would you say to those who argue that European cooperation is a lengthy and costly process for rearming Europe?
- 2) 'European defence cooperation and the development of domestic industrial capacity' (p.3): Are these two objectives compatible? How can they be reconciled?
- 3) You wrote, on page 3, 'procurement patterns vary significantly across Member States': Could you elaborate a little and explain the reasons behind this?
- 4) Could you elaborate on the role of private funding?
- 5) What are the weaknesses/risks of your recommendations? How do you anticipate responding to criticism and the limitations of your recommendations?
- **6) Recommendation 1: Create a European Defence Mechanism (EDM) - Could you clarify the difference between the European Defence Mechanism (EDM) and the EDA? Under what institutional authority does the EDM fall?**
- **7) Recommendation 2: Establish a Single Market for armaments and services - How can you convince those who oppose such a project?**
- **8) Recommendation 3: Establish a Defence Bank to strengthen the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base - Why a specific/sectoral institution and not an extension of the ECB or EIB?**

6) European Defence Mechanism (EDM)

- ‘An intergovernmental treaty aimed at coordinating procurement initiatives and establishing a unified European defence market’ (p . 8)
- ‘Acting as a joint procurement agency’ (p.9)
- ‘This mechanism would strengthen Europe's operational readiness by fostering a genuine *single market for defence*’ (p. 9)

7) The current backlash over the single defence market

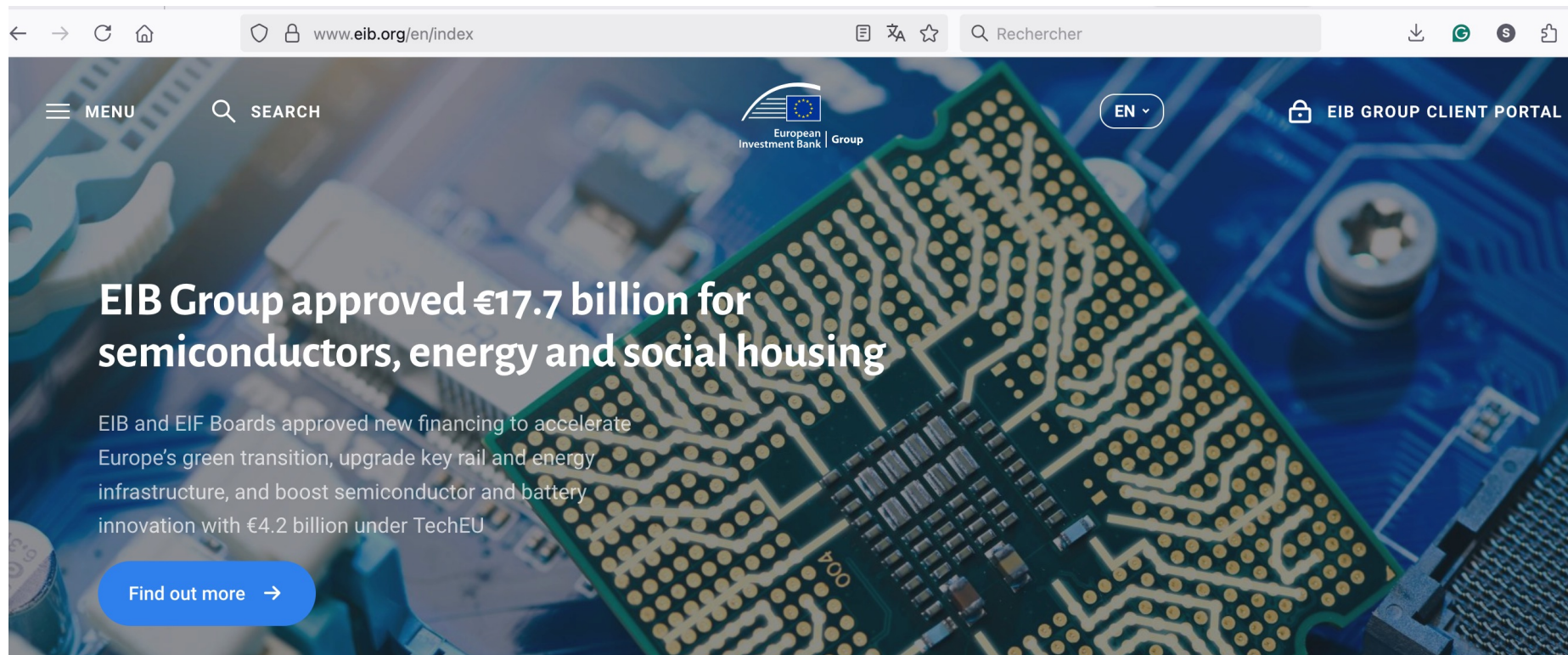
- Some stakeholders consider that such a project favours GE which has the highest defence budget
- This argument may be considered justified for small countries, but it seems more debatable for large countries (spirit of defeat and national protectionism)



Christophe Gomart, MEP, EPP

8) Defence Bank

- Do not underestimate the length of time it takes to set up a new institution and the subsequent difficulty of bringing a new player into line with existing players (ECB, EIB).



II. Questions to students



Questions

- 1) Article 122 TFEU?
- 2) National escape clause?
- 3) Foreign Military Sales (FMS)?
- 4) 3.1% of GDP?
- 5) 18%?
- 6) How many EU and NATO member states?
- 7) Strategic Compass?

1) Article 122 TFEU

- ‘a legal basis that allows the Commission and Council to adopt measures independently, without input from the European Parliament’ (p.8)

Article 122

(ex Article 100 TEC)

1. Without prejudice to any other procedures provided for in the Treaties, the Council, on a proposal from the Commission, may decide, in a spirit of solidarity between Member States, upon the measures appropriate to the economic situation, in particular if severe difficulties arise in the supply of certain products, notably in the area of energy.
2. Where a Member State is in difficulties or is seriously threatened with severe difficulties caused by natural disasters or exceptional occurrences beyond its control, the Council, on a proposal from the Commission, may grant, under certain conditions, Union financial assistance to the Member State concerned. The President of the Council shall inform the European Parliament of the decision taken.

2) National escape clause

What is the national escape clause?

The national escape clause (NEC) is an instrument within the EU's fiscal rules that allows individual member states to **temporarily deviate from budgetary requirements** in response to exceptional circumstances outside their control, while ensuring debt sustainability.

The reformed EU economic governance framework allows member states to make use of this flexibility by temporarily increasing public spending or running higher deficits **without being considered in breach of the fiscal rules** set out in the stability and growth pact.

Alongside the national escape clause, the EU's fiscal framework (also known as the economic governance framework) also includes a general escape clause, which can be activated in the event of a severe economic downturn in the euro area or the EU as a whole. While the NEC applies to individual member states, the general escape clause allows for a coordinated response at EU level.

Which member states have activated the national escape clause?

Several EU countries have already indicated their intention to activate the clause as part of their national defence funding plans.

On 8 July 2025, the Council activated the national escape clause for **15 member states**: Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia and Slovenia.

On 10 October 2025, the Council also activated the national escape clause for Germany.

16

national escape clauses
activated

3) Foreign Military Sales (FMS)

- Definition: ‘The Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program is a form of security assistance authorized by the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended [22 U.S.C. 2751, et. seq.] and a fundamental tool of U.S. foreign policy. Under Section 3, of the AECA, **the U.S. Government may sell defense articles and services to foreign countries and international organizations** when the President finds providing defense articles and services will strengthen the security of the United States and promote world peace’

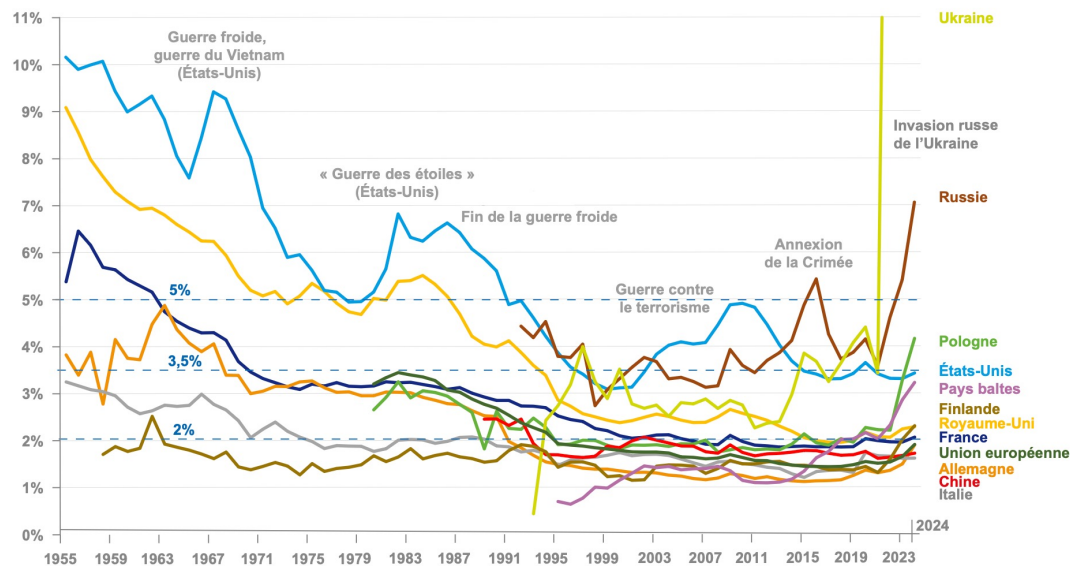
Country	Main equipment	\$ bns
Turkey	F-16 Aircraft	23
Poland	Integrated Air and Missile Defence Battle Command System (IAMD, IBCS)	15
Finland	F/A-18E/F Super Hornet and EA-18G Growler aircraft	15
Finland	F-35 Joint Strike fighter aircraft	13
Poland	AH-64E Apache helicopters	12
Greece	F-35 Joint Strike fighter aircraft	9
Germany	CH-47F Chinook helicopters	9
Germany	F-35 Aircraft	8
Switzerland	F/A-18E/F Super Hornet aircraft	7
Poland	F-16 Viper midlife upgrade	7
Romania	F-35A Lightning II Joint Strike fighter aircraft	7
Greece	Multi-Mission Surface Combatant (MMSC) ships	7
Switzerland	F-35 Joint Strike fighter aircraft	7
Poland	M1A2 SEPv3 main battle tanks	6
Czechia	F-35 Aircraft	6
Germany	Patriot Advanced Capability-3 Missile Segment Enhancement Missiles	5

Source: Bruegel based on Mejino-López and Wolff (2025).

4) 3.1% of GDP

- ‘During the Cold War, Western European countries devoted on average 3.1% of GDP to defence’ (p.4)

Graphique 1 – Dépenses de défense en pourcentage du PIB, 1955-2024

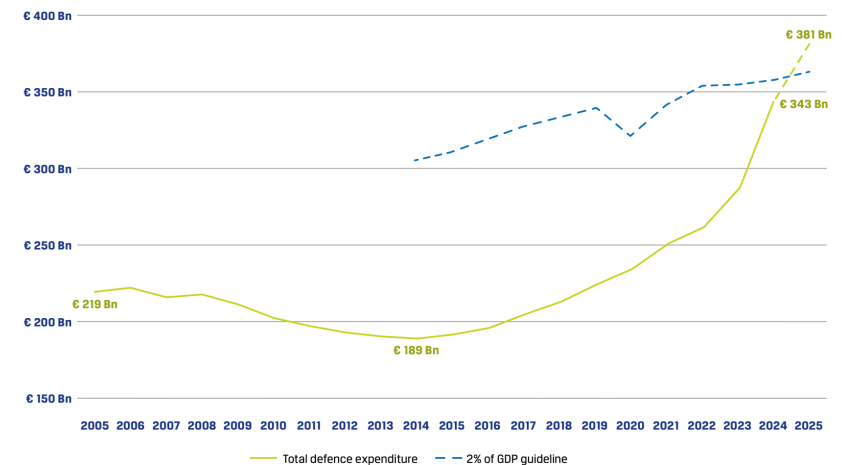


Notes : avec 34 % en 2024, la courbe de l'Ukraine est hors graphique. Les données pour l'UE évoluent avec l'entrée et la sortie des pays dans l'Union.

Lecture : en 1970, les dépenses de défense de la France (en bleu foncé) représentaient 3,5 % de son PIB.

Source : d'après SIPRI et FMI

Figure 1. Total Defence Expenditure vs the previous 2% of GDP NATO Guideline



Source: EDA (2024)

Source: Haut Commissariat au Plan (2025)

5) 18%

- The defence ministers of the EU Member States have committed, within the framework of the EDA and in the context of the annexation of Crimea in 2014, to devote one third (35%) of the funds allocated to arms procurement through European cooperation
- Nevertheless, more than a decade later, the current level is two times less (18%)
- Nearly half of European states' military budgets (48%) are still spent on importing arms from the US (34%) or other non-European countries (14%) (IISS, 2024)

6) EU and NATO member states

 32 NATO members	 23 shared members	 27 EU members
Albania Belgium Bulgaria Canada Croatia Czechia Denmark Estonia Finland France Germany Greece Hungary Iceland Italy Latvia	Lithuania Luxembourg Montenegro The Netherlands North Macedonia Norway Poland Portugal Romania Slovakia Slovenia Spain Sweden Türkiye United Kingdom United States	Austria Belgium Bulgaria Croatia Cyprus Czechia Denmark Estonia Finland France Germany Greece Hungary Ireland Italy Latvia Lithuania Luxembourg Malta The Netherlands Poland Portugal Romania Slovakia Slovenia Spain Sweden



7) Strategic Compass

