WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND?

The Fund supports the research and development (R&D) of new or “enhanced” weapons and military technology (everything prior to the production phase), allegedly contributing to growth, jobs and EU strategic autonomy.

FOR WHOM?

Funding will go to applied research centres from the security sector and weapons manufacturers, but also to civilian companies working on technologies relevant for the military like artificial intelligence.

The Fund will be open to companies based and controlled in the EU or other European countries (Norway, Iceland and probably the UK), but also from non-European countries (like the US or Israel who already regularly partner with EU companies) under certain conditions still under negotiation.

FOR WHAT?

The Fund will focus on “cutting-edge” technologies like autonomous and unmanned systems (e.g. armed drones), and intelligence-surveillance, cyber security and maritime security. Part of the funding will be earmarked for “disruptive” technologies “which can “radically change the concept and conduct of defence affairs” – in other words, war.

WHAT IS IT?

The European Defence Fund (EDF) is a new multi-billion euro EU fund aimed at supporting the research and development (R&D) of new or “enhanced” weapons and military technology, while promoting the competitiveness of the European defence industry. The Fund is intended to enhance the EU’s strategic autonomy and its capability to respond to global challenges, while fostering innovation and growth in the defence sector.

TIMELINE

- **Oct 2014** first breakthrough for EU funding to the military sector is adopted (€1.5m Pilot Project)
- **Mar 2015** EU Industry Commissioner Bienkowska sets up Group of Personalities “to advise on how the EU can support research” in military
- **Feb 2016** Group of Personalities' final report calls for a Preparatory Action and a €3.5-billion EU Defence Research Programme
- **Oct 2016** Preparatory Action for Defence Research (PADR) is adopted, dedicating €90 million to basic research in military technology over 2017-2019
- **Nov 2016** European Commission presents Defence Action Plan, proposing a European Defence Fund “to support the joint research and development of defence capabilities” in the next EU budgetary cycle (2021-2027)
- **Jun 2017** European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP) proposed to fund the development of military technology in 2019-2020
- **Mar 2018** EDIDP is adopted, diverting €500 million from the EU budget to the military industry
- **Feb 2019** EU Member States and Parliament reach provisional political agreement on European Defence Fund for 2021-2027
- **Apr 2019** EP plenary to vote on provisional agreement
- **Autumn 2019** new EP to negotiate next EU budgetary cycle (MFF) including Defence Fund budget
**THE EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND IS NOT GOOD FOR PEACE**

- **The New EU Budget**
  - 1.2x for Peace
  - 1.3x for Border Control and Asylum
  - 2.6x for International Development
  - 22x for Defence

**IT MILITARISES THE EU AND DIVERTS FUNDING FROM PEACEFUL PRIORITIES**
- It crosses the red line that from the EU's foundation prohibited it from contributing to military-related activities.
- It diverts finite financial and human resources to the detriment of civilian priorities and peaceful solutions to conflicts. It is a shift towards technological and military “answers” to political and societal challenges – profiting the industry, not citizens.
- In parallel the military sector is mainstreamed as a priority in a wide range of EU civilian policies that will also subsidize the arms industry.

**IT COULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF CONTROVERSIAL WEAPONS**
- From 2021, research and development (R&D) for lethal autonomous weapons without the possibility of meaningful human control (e.g. killer-robots) will be excluded from the Fund; but this is not a limitation in the current 2017-2020 funding.
- Other types of unmanned weapons or defensive autonomous systems and other controversial technologies (e.g. incendiary weapons or depleted uranium) can still be funded.
- The proposed ethical review falls short of being transparent and credible: it will mainly rely on the industry self-assessing its own project proposals, the list of independent experts for further ethical checks will not be public, and a running project cannot be stopped even on ethical grounds.

**IT WILL EXACERBATE THE GLOBAL ARMS RACE WHICH IN TURN FEEDS CONFLICTS**
- European military industry makes a large share of its sales outside Europe: subsidizing arms industry R&D to boost its (global) competitiveness will inevitably increase EU arms exports to areas where there is tension or conflict: weapons proliferation encourages the use of force rather than peaceful solutions.
- The arms industry will have full ownership of the results produced with EU taxpayers money, including the right to transfer them outside the EU.
- The EU will have no say on the export of EU-funded military goods as Member States, with divergent practices, will keep full control of the licensing of EU-funded arms exports.

**IT WILL NOT LEAD TO SAVINGS, NOR PREVENT MILITARY OVER-PRODUCTION AND DUPLICATION**
- Military industry in the EU suffers from over-production and duplication because of fragmented national markets and industries.
- Resolving this situation does not require spending more, but rather prioritising specific companies and weapon systems over others; national governments are not willing to take the political decisions to make this happen.
- The Fund will only add to growing national military expenditure and provide industrial subsidies preserving short term interests.

**IT WILL NOT STRENGTHEN THE EU, BUT INSTEAD CREATES A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT**
- It is often argued that the Defence Fund will pave the way for an “EU of Defence.” However, the economic bottom-up approach did not work for building a social or fiscal Europe, why should it work for a sensitive field as “defence”, where national divergent geostrategic and industrial interests still prevail?
- Several Member States and foreign companies are still lobbying for wide access to the Fund for non-European companies, despite claims the Fund would strengthen European strategic autonomy.
- Under derogatory rules the European Parliament will have no say on what will be done with taxpayers’ money for the duration of the programme (7 years), while Member States will be in the driving seat with a de facto veto power: this sets a dangerous precedent against EU integration and democratic scrutiny rules.

**SUPPLYING THE GLOBAL ARMS RACE**

Examples of EU arms sales in 2017. Source: EU Annual Report

**A TINY SHARE OF EUROPE’S ECONOMY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Defence Turnover</th>
<th>Defence Jobs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>€5.5bn</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>€1.02bn</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>€800m</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>€600m</td>
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<td>U.A.E.</td>
<td>€430m</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi</td>
<td>€5.5bn</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
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</tbody>
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EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND IS NOT GOOD FOR EUROPE

- Military industry relies heavily on public spending, including for Research & Development (R&D), and on protected national markets, offsets and other forms of arms exports subsidies.
- Military industry accounts for a tiny share of EU economy, to the exception of few large countries, and economists point to a neutral or negative impact of military spending on growth. In particular, investments in this industry creates fewer jobs at higher cost than in other needed sectors such as renewables.
- Military R&D will divert funds and skilled resources from civilian needs because there is an EU-wide shortage of highly-skilled engineers, scientists and IT workers.

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**ARMS INDUSTRY LOBBYING: "A SPIDER'S WEB OF TRUST AND INFLUENCE"**

**EU ARMS DEALERS HAVE A PRIVILEGED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

- In 2015, EU Commissioner Elzbieta Bienkowska set up a group of Personalities (GoP) on Defence Research to give advice on a Defence Research programme.
- A majority of the GoP members were from profit-making companies active in the defence sector.
- In October 2016 a €90-million PADR was adopted, largely integrating the GoP recommendations.
- Five GoP members are now receiving EU funding and are involved in at least two of the five current projects under the Preparatory action: Indra, Leonardo, Saab, TNO and the Frauenhofer Group.

**THE INDUSTRY-DOMINATED "GROUP OF PERSONALITIES"**

- Airbus Group
- MBDA
- ASD
- BAE Systems
- Saab
- TNO
- Leonardo
- Indra
- Fraunhofer Group
- Federica Mogherini EU High Rep for Foreign Affairs
- Michael Gahler MEP
- Teija Tiilikainen Think tank Director
- Nick Witney Think tank policy fellow
- Carl Bildt Former PM of Sweden
- Elisabeth Guigou French politician
- Bogdan Klich Polish politician

**MILITARY INDUSTRY HAS BUILT A PRIVILEGED RELATIONSHIP WITH KEY EU PARLIAMENTARIANS (MEPs)**

The Kangaroo Group is a parliamentary intergroup arranging meeting between MEPs and the industry. Most of the MEPs influential on the military research issue are part of this Kangaroo Group and/or coming from large countries to benefit most of this Fund: France, Germany, UK, Spain, Italy or Poland.

**MEMBER STATES AND NATIONAL CORPORATE LOBBIES HAVE DEVELOPED A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP WHICH HAS INFLUENCE AT THE EU LEVEL**

The 2016 Netherlands' Rotating Presidency helped ASD (Aeronautics, Space, Defence and Security Industries) deliver a lobby win against initial resistance to industry full ownership of intellectual property rights (IPR) generated by 100% EU-funded research.

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