

**FUTURE
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EU Commission

Roadmap for European Defence Readiness



EU Commission Presents Roadmap for European Defence Readiness

On 16 October 2025, the European Commission presented its “**Readiness Roadmap**” — a plan to achieve European defence readiness by 2030. The document translates the goals outlined in the **White Paper of March 2025** into concrete measures. The focus is on stronger coordination, joint procurement, and industrial cooperation within the European defence architecture.

Financially, the Commission relies on **existing EU instruments** — particularly the **European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP)** and **SAFE defence loans** — instead of allocating new funds

Key Objectives and Measures

Objective/Measure	Timeline
At least 40 % of EU Member States’ defence procurements to be made jointly by the end of 2027 (bringing forward the EDIS target from 2030 to 2027).	By end of 2027
Launch of all defence projects in priority areas.	1st half of 2026
Designation of lead Member States or project coalitions to coordinate programmes.	From early 2026
Introduction of an annual EU Defence Readiness Report .	From 2026
Achievement of full military operational and defence capability.	By 2030

Four European Flagship Projects

- 1. Eastern Flank Watch** – Surveillance system to protect the EU’s eastern flank, including drone components.
Operational by end of 2028.
- 2. European Drone Wall** – EU-wide drone network for border monitoring and threat detection.
Fully operational by end of 2027.
- 3. European Air Shield** – Integrated, NATO-compatible European air and missile defence system.
Accelerated build-up starting 2026.
- 4. European Defence Space Shield** – Protection programme for European satellite and communication infrastructures.
Gradual implementation starting 2026

Financing and Programmes

Implementation will take place without new budget lines.

- EDIP will be used to scale up joint production and procurement.
- SAFE defence loans of €150 billion will promote investments, to be available from Q1 2026; 50 % to be disbursed by March 2028.
- Additionally, the EIB and EIF will establish a €1 billion equity fund to support defence-related scale-ups and expansion projects.
- From 2028 onward, the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF 2028–2034) will become the main funding source.

Further Operational Measures

- Integration of the Ukrainian defence industry into the EU internal market (“Red Carpet” strategy) by mid-2026.
- Raw material and supply chain analyses and strategies for securing critical materials by end of 2026.
- Expansion of industrial capacities and technology alliances between deep-tech companies and defence actors.
- Development of an EU-wide defence goods market and reform of state aid and competition law by 2027.

Timeline (Extract)

Year Measure / Milestone

- 2025** Establishment of the EIB/EIF Fund (€1 billion); publication of the Roadmap
- 2026** Launch of SAFE loans and priority projects; implementation of the Ukraine strategy
- 2027** 40 % joint procurement; “Drone Wall” fully operational; first progress report
- 2028** Eastern Flank Watch operational; 50 % of SAFE funds used
- 2030** Achievement of EU-wide defence readiness

BDLI Assessment

The BDLI welcomes the European Commission’s Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030 as an important step towards strengthening European defence capabilities and industrial cooperation. The ambitious goal of achieving at least 40% joint defence procurement by the end of 2027 sends a strong signal for deeper European armament cooperation and more efficient use of industrial capacities.

The European flagship projects — such as the European Air Shield and European Defence Space Shield — are seen as key drivers of innovation, resilience, and Europe’s technological sovereignty in military aerospace.

The BDLI particularly welcomes the European Drone Wall as a forward-looking initiative that will make a decisive contribution to Europe’s security architecture through the expansion of networked unmanned systems, while also stimulating the European aerospace industry.

At the same time, the BDLI notes that the Roadmap still requires significant concretisation. Its implementation depends heavily on

Member States’ determination, while the Commission refers to existing programmes such as EDIP and SAFE without allocating new funds. For a sustainable industrial impact, the announced regulatory easing in state aid and competition law and access to critical raw materials must be defined quickly and bindingly.

Only with clear framework conditions can the European aerospace and defence industry develop the necessary production capacities and innovative performance.

Overall, the BDLI views the Roadmap as a necessary strategic framework pointing the way towards a capable European Defence Union. What matters now is that political ambitions are translated into concrete actions — with clear industrial participation, predictable financing, and a unified European procurement strategy.

The BDLI will accompany this process constructively and advocate for the military aerospace sector to play a central role in achieving European defence readiness by 2030.

About the aerospace industry

The German aerospace industry, represented by the BDLI e.V., is an integral part of the European aerospace industry. As a key strategic industry, the sector plays a decisive role in the technological and economic sovereignty of the European Union. It promotes economic growth, technological innovation and international connectivity. In Germany alone, the industry contributes significantly to GDP with over 120,000 employees and an annual turnover of over 52 billion euros.

Over the decades, Europe has worked together with industry, member states and the European Union to achieve a leading position in the aerospace industry. This must be maintained and further expanded in the face of international competition. In view of far-reaching technological, political and industrial changes, this requires sustained investment in research and innovation.

German Aerospace Industries Association

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