

**Question for written answer E-001782/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Georgios Aftias (PPE)

Subject: Funding of defence by the European Union

Greece has from the beginning been one of the Member States that have consistently supported the EU's common foreign and security policy. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Prime Minister of Greece, has been steadfastly leading attempts to create an integrated European defence policy. Greece has the longest coastline in Europe, at a colossal 15 000 kilometres, and this must be protected by the EU.

Nikos Dendias, Greek Minister of National Defence has stated that 'Europe must have its own defence industry. Not for the purposes of competition, but so that we are able to defend ourselves. The budgetary rules on defence must be changed. That is the main thing that the EU should do in the future'.

In view of this:

1. What measures will the Commission take concerning public and private funding to strengthen the defence industrial and technological base and address critical capability gaps?
2. What actions will it take to support and coordinate efforts to strengthen the defence industrial base, innovation and the single market?
3. Will it propose the issue of joint bonds for defence and the Greek borders in conjunction with the fiscal relaxation of the rules governing such an issue?

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