



Commission welcomes Member States' endorsement of five joint European defence projects

Brussels, 28 September 2026

The European Commission welcomes Member States' decision to endorse the first five [European Defence Projects of Common Interest \(EDPCIs\)](#). These projects will strengthen Europe's defence capabilities by developing key military systems together. Following today's decision, the defence projects can now move towards funding.

Under the €1.5 billion [European Defence Industry Programme \(EDIP\)](#), the Commission has allocated €325 million to support the establishment and deployment of the EDPCIs. Today's decision is a key deliverable of EDIP, which aims to support Europe's defence industry in ramping up production capacity, as well as contribute to the development of military capabilities critical for the security and defence interests of the Union and its Member States.

The industrial projects focus on **five priority areas**:

- drones and counter-drone systems;
- maritime and seabed defence;
- space;
- air and missile defence;
- as well as strengthening security along the EU's Eastern Flank.

They come in response to a Commission call for expression of interest to Member States to submit project proposals for possible EDPCIs.

EDPCIs are large-scale industrial projects which provide a framework for Member States to work together on major defence initiatives that are too large or too complex for individual countries to develop on their own. By supporting long-term cooperation, they will strengthen Europe's defence industry and improve the EU's ability to respond to shared security challenges, in line with NATO capability priorities. The projects are designed to cover the full journey of the capability development to its deployment and operation.

Next steps

The Commission will now work closely with participating Member States to support the implementation of the projects and monitor progress towards their agreed objectives and milestones.

The EDPCIs are designed as long-term projects that will extend beyond the current EDIP funding period. Other EDPCIs may be identified in the future, alongside the ones identified today. Union support may continue under the next Multiannual Financial Framework, including through [the proposed European Competitiveness Fund](#).

Background

On 3 July 2025, the Commission made a [Proposal for a Council Implementing Decision on the establishment of European Projects of Common Interest](#), delivering on the objectives of EDIP to modernise Europe's defence industry.

The EDIP Regulation introduces the establishment of EDPCIs as future ambitious collaborative industrial projects aimed to benefit a broader part of the EU and open also to Norway and Ukraine.

On average, 18 Member States participate in each project, and Ukraine participates in four of the five projects. The Commission is expected to take part in the EDPCIs, provide financial support and continue to help Member States coordinate their implementation. It will also monitor progress

against agreed milestones to support the timely delivery of the EDPCIs projects.

For more information

[Proposal for a Council Implementing Decision on the establishment of European Projects of Common Interest](#)

[European Defence Industry Programme \(EDIP\)](#)

[Factsheet: European Defence - Protect What Matters](#)

[Factsheet on Drone and Counter Drone European Resolve](#)

[Factsheet on Integrated Maritime and Seabed Defence](#)

[Factsheet on Space](#)

[Factsheet on EU Federated Integrated Air and Missile Defence including Early Warning](#)

[Factsheet on Eastern Flank Watch](#)

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Quote(s):

"Europe is facing growing threats. Responding effectively requires close cooperation between Member States and the EU as a whole. The five projects are a great example of such cooperation. They will help to modernise Europe's defence industry, reinforce our industrial base, and deepen European defence cooperation. Europe stands ready to match its words with action."
Henna Virkkunen, Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy - 28/09/2026

"Today's decision shows that Europe can be ambitious and deliver on its promises. Member States, together with the support of the EU, are joining forces, pooling their expertise and investing together in the capabilities we need. From drones and air defence to space, maritime, and the security of our Eastern Flank and the European Union as a whole, the five projects focus on the areas where we need to move faster to build a stronger, more resilient European defence."
Andrius Kubilius, Commissioner for Defence and Space - 28/09/2026

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