



ADOPTED TEXT N° 507

Provisional Act

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

CONSTITUTION OF 4 OCTOBER 1958

FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE

2020-2021 ORDINARY SESSION

26 November 2020

EUROPEAN RESOLUTION

on the relaunch of the defence sector

*Is considered as final, pursuant to Article 151-7 of the Rules of Procedure,
the resolution which reads as follows:*

See numbers: **3492** and **3530**.

Single Article

The National Assembly,

Having regard to Article 88-4 of the Constitution,

Considering that, for several years now, the European Union has been experiencing an unprecedented deterioration of its security environment, which can be seen in the accumulation of crises that destabilise its close neighbours, especially in the Sahel, in Libya, in the Western Mediterranean, in Syria and in Ukraine, the consequences of which can be felt within EU borders, especially through the influx of migrants and terrorist attacks on its soil;

Considering that the Covid-19 pandemic, which has been impacting the European Union and the world since the end of 2019, currently represents the most serious of global threats facing the world, deepens economic and social imbalances and exacerbates international tensions;

Considering that the defence industry – in addition to the weight it represents in the European Union economy – is a fundamental aspect of its strategic autonomy, without which it could neither guarantee the security of its territory, nor defend its interests abroad;

Considering that, while this pandemic is having an impact on almost all economic sectors, it especially impacts the defence industries, limiting their investments and exposing them to bankruptcy risks which would lead to long-term supply chains disruptions or to buybacks by foreign competitors;

Considering that the defence sector is not listed in the recovery priorities as identified in parliamentary work, both at the EU and Member State level, although it will be able to benefit from recovery measures being implemented or planned;

Considering that the defence sector – an industry with a highly skilled workforce and with high added value, whose production lines are established in Europe – represents one of the most useful vehicles to ensuring an efficient economic recovery;

1. Welcomes the compromise reached by the European Council on 21 July 2020 on the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) as well as the implementation of a €750-billion recovery plan;

2. Applauds the major progress made in setting up the European Defence Fund despite its funding being decreased in comparison to the initial proposals made by the European Commission;

3. Regrets that the defence and space sectors are listed neither in the priorities of the recovery plan, nor in the priorities presented by the President of the European Commission in her State of the Union Address of 16 September 2020;

4. Believes that a recovery plan targeting, in particular, the defence and space sectors, is economically sound and necessary from a strategic point of view, on account of the European Union's ambition to achieve autonomy, the deterioration of its security environment as well as the geopolitical implications of the Covid-19 pandemic;

5. Asks that the government target defence and space industry players – in particular small and medium enterprises and middle-market companies – in implementing its recovery plan, and asks the European Commission to approve this targeting effort within the French recovery plan and, as the case may be, within other national recovery plans;

6. Calls on the government to rigorously screen foreign direct investments as provided for in Article L. 151-3 of France's Monetary and Financial Code, in collaboration with other Member States and the European Commission, within the framework of Regulation (EU) 2019/452 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019 establishing a framework for the screening of foreign direct investments into the Union;

7. Deems it urgent that the European Commission, in controlling concentrations, take note of the worldwide competition that exists in the defence and space sectors and expand, beyond the mere domestic market, the relevant markets considered in the competitive analysis in order to facilitate European business combinations which are necessary to compete internationally;

8. Believes it is necessary to channel financing efforts of the European Defence Fund on a number of capacity development programmes and critical technologies which are a driving force for the industrial and technological base as a whole and for European defence;

9. Believes it is necessary that the EU Member States choose European companies in their defence equipment procurement policies.

Paris, 26 November 2020.

President,
Signed: RICHARD FERRAND

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