



Parlamentul României Senat

Bucharest, October 26, 2022

Courtesy translation

OPINION
of the SENATE of ROMANIA
on the Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the Defence Investment Gaps Analysis and Way Forward JOIN(2022) 24 final

The Romanian Senate examined the Joint Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the Defence Investment Gaps Analysis and Way Forward - JOIN(2022) 24 final – according to the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon, Protocol (no. 1).

Taking into account the report of the Committee on European Affairs, the Plenary of the Senate, during its session of October 26, 2022,

(1) considers that

- a) in the current context, Romania shares with the other Member States the opinion that we need to increase investments in the field of defence and, implicitly, to increase defence expenditures, including in the field of research.
- b) in terms of innovation, in order to avoid unjustified duplication, but also a possible competition between the innovation instruments of the EU and NATO, it is necessary to approach a possible way of collaboration in order to ensure the complementarity of the EU instruments regarding innovation in the field of defence with those of NATO (*NATO's Defence Innovation Accelerator and NATO's Innovation Fund*).
- c) it is in Romania's interest that the development of the European technological and industrial base in the field of defence be carried out, from a geographical point of view, in a balanced way, throughout the Union. Thus, it is desirable that through the implementation of the proposed measures, in the medium and long term, the discrepancies between the national defence industries at the EU level will be mitigated.
- d) strengthening a competitive defence industry is also necessary for Romania, but the same opportunities must be ensured for all industrial actors at the EU level.
- e) the development of new EU financial instruments to stimulate collaborative defence acquisitions (*short-term EU instruments to reinforce defence industrial capabilities through joint procurement and Regulation on European Defence Investment Programme*) must consider the Member States' prerogatives/responsibilities in defence acquisitions.

- f) an important factor to stimulate defence investments is the exclusion of defence acquisitions from the calculation of the budget deficit.
- g) the programming function should remain at national level, this being determined by the specific elements of each Member State which, by their nature, determine the way in which the resources are programmed, leveraging, of course, the collaborative approach.

(2) supports

- a) the idea of revising the European Defence Fund Regulation to include more acquisition elements.
- b) the importance of SMEs, but also the relevance of improving cross-border cooperation in the field of defence, including the need to increase synergies within civil-military innovation efforts and to attract private actors in the field of defence, actors from the non-traditional industrial field

(3) draws attention to

- a) the need to maintain a balance between the stimulation of acquisitions from the European defence market and the purchase of competitive products from other markets.
- b) the fact that the development of new financial instruments to stimulate collaborative acquisition in the field of defence must consider the prerogatives of Member States in the field of defence acquisition.

(4) also calls for ensuring the same opportunities for all industrial actors at the EU level, emphasizing that, by implementing the proposed long-term measures, it should be aimed at mitigating the discrepancies between the national defence industries.