

The issue



Under the Treaties, defence policy remains a national prerogative.

- the European Union can only intervene at the unanimous request of the 27 Member States
- The European Commission does not have the initiative.
- This is an **intergovernmental** field.

On the other hand, without conducting an armaments policy, the European Union can play a role when it comes to the industrial dimension: the Commission can propose actions and programmes of a **Community** nature.

1

The background and framework of a European armaments policy

EU involvement in defence industrial policy has long been the subject of debate. Some relevant milestones:



1997



The Commission

- Published a report on the cost of non-Europe in terms of armaments.
- Made initial proposals to better integrate the European defence equipment market.

1998

6 MAJOR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES



signed a letter of intent (LOI)



They stated their desire to harmonise their national armaments policies and the means they intended to use to achieve this.

2000



Transnational European defence industrial groups were founded: EADS, which later became Airbus, and MBDA.

4 COUNTRIES



set up OCCAR (Organisation Conjointe de Coopération en matière d'Armement), a body authorised to award contracts on their behalf for cooperative programmes.

2001

2004

The European Defence Agency was created

- An EU institution.
- Its primary mission is armaments cooperation.



EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY

2009



The adoption of 2 European directives laying down common rules for access to defence procurement contracts and the circulation of defence equipment within the EU.



horizon europe

2014

2021



The Commission set up a Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS) and a European Defence Fund is created.

The EU decided on a budget of €1.7 billion to fund dual-use security research for civil and **military** under Horizon Europe.

2

The EU's areas of intervention in the field of armaments

4 levels of defence industrial policy may be involved:

The internal market:

Integrating the European defence equipment market to increase competition while encouraging cooperation..



1

Research:

Funding and development of dual or military technologies.



2

Competitiveness of industry:

3

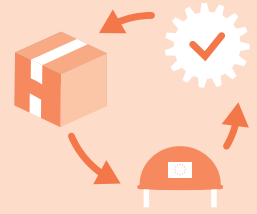
Promoting partnerships and the consolidation of companies active in defence.



Security of supply:

4

Supporting the production and coordinating the procurement of military equipment within Member States..



Progress in each of these areas depends on **3 conditions**



The existence of a legal **basis** authorising EU intervention. 2 articles of the TFEU play an important role in this respect:

- **Article 173** which concerns the competitiveness of European industry,
- **Article 114** which concerns the internal market.



Member States' acceptance to an EU-regulated and EU-financed pooling system for their defence investments.



A **convergence of military requirements**, the expression of which remains the prerogative of national armed forces.

3

EU-funded and EU-led programmes

The European Defence Fund (EDF)



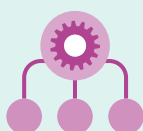
6 years



€8 billion



Financing collaborative R&D projects



Competitive calls for projects from industry.

ASAP (Act in Support of Ammunition Production)



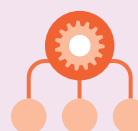
2 years



€500 million

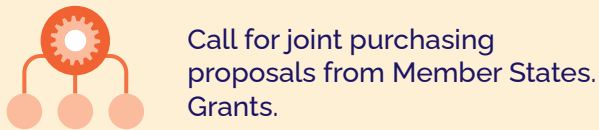
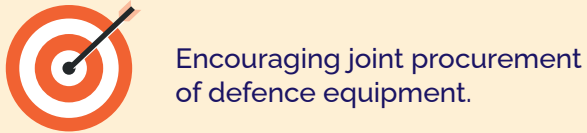


Support for the production of munitions and missiles.



Competitive calls for projects from industry. Subsidies.

EDIRPA (European Defence Industry Reinforcement through common Procurement Act)



EDIP (European Defence Industry Program)



AN INITIAL PROVISIONAL ASSESSMENT:

