



2026

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Simplification, Implementation & Enforcement

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1. Introduction

As European Commissioner for Defence and Space, I steward European efforts to strengthen the **EU's defence and space capabilities**. My aim is to help building a sovereign, autonomous and competitive Europe, vital for achieving EU objectives. As set out in the Mission Letters of all Members of the European Commission, each Commissioner must prepare an **Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement** in the areas under their direct responsibility. This report covers the **period from 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026**.

2. Executive Summary

Over the past year, we have made considerable progress in improving implementation and simplifying the rules and procedures that affect the defence and space sectors. This is crucial for us to be more responsive and effective amidst evolving security, economic, and geopolitical challenges.

A first major milestone is the entry into force on 23 December 2025 of the [Defence Mini Omnibus](#). It created the legal basis for Ukraine's association to the European Defence Fund (EDF), opened selected EU budget programmes to defence and dual-use investment, and allowed more flexible procedures for disruptive-technology calls. As a follow-up, on 13 July 2026, the EU and Ukraine signed the **Association Agreement on the participation of Ukraine in the EDF**. Once this Association Agreement will formally enter into force, legal entities established in Ukraine will become eligible as beneficiaries and subcontractors involved in the actions supported by the EDF.

The [European Defence Industry Programme \(EDIP\)](#) entered into force on 30 December 2025, establishing a longer-term Union approach to supporting the European defence industry by bringing together demand-side and supply-side measures. EDIP made available EUR 1.5 billion to strengthen and modernise Europe's defence industry and support Ukraine's defence industry.

In parallel the [SAFE \(Security Action for Europe\)](#) instrument is gaining traction in supporting urgent and large-scale investments of Member States strengthening the European defence industry. It focuses on closing critical capability gaps through common defence procurement. SAFE establishes exceptional simplification rules for supported procurements: it enables negotiated procedures without prior publication on the basis of crisis urgency, allows existing framework agreements and contracts to be opened to additional buyers, and exempts covered supplies and imports from VAT. Since its entry into force in May 2025, 19 Member States submitted loan requests totalling EUR 146 billion. As of mid-July 2026, loan agreements have been signed with 13 Member States for EUR 107 billion, enabling pre-financing to begin. First disbursements happened end May. Moreover, the [Ukraine Support Loan](#) was adopted in February 2026 to provide financial and economic assistance to Ukraine to support the country in covering its financing needs resulting particularly from Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. In April 2026, the Council made available for Ukraine EUR 28.3 billion to support Ukraine's defence industrial capacities until end 2026. The Commission has so far approved product schedules on drones, ammunition, air defence and missiles and disbursed nearly EUR 8.4 billion for defence products under the programme.

Also, in order to bring disruptive defence technology faster from the lab to the field we proposed in March 2026 the new Programme for Agile and Rapid Defence Innovation ([AGILE](#)). It will support innovation in areas to be determined based on Member States' priorities, focusing on small and medium-sized enterprises, including start-ups and scale-ups. On 15 July 2026, the European Parliament and the Council reached a political agreement on the AGILE Regulation, paving the way for start of implementation in early 2027.

I am also glad that last June co-legislators reached a [provisional deal](#) on the [Defence Readiness Omnibus](#), which simplifies rules for defence industries and armed forces. It is an important step for Europe's defence readiness: it will reduce administrative burden, accelerate procurement and transfers, and help Member States and industry move faster.

Over the last year, we also adopted **three major defence policy communications**. In October 2025, the Commission and the High Representative adopted the Preserving Peace – [Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030](#), translating the [White Paper](#) into dated milestones and indicators. In November 2025, the Commission adopted the [EU Defence Industry Transformation Roadmap](#), setting actions to accelerate disruptive innovation, shorten time-to-market, improve access to contracts and strengthen defence skills. The Commission and the High Representative also adopted the [Joint Communication on Military Mobility](#), accompanied by legislative proposals to remove cross-border regulatory and procedural barriers.

We also continue our work on a harmonised framework for space activities across the Union. The proposed **EU Space Act** is under negotiation. Once adopted, it will help create a genuine single market for space activities, and make it easier for companies, particularly start-ups and SMEs, to grow and operate across borders.

To improve our policies, we need to understand how well they work in practice. This is why **stakeholder engagement and stress-testing** our initiatives remain central to our actions. Evaluations, implementation dialogues, outreach events and information days help us get feedback from the ground, learn from experience and improve our actions. We are using all tools at hand to respond to the acute needs of the defence industry and space sectors and strengthen EU's capabilities and stature on the global stage.

3. Delivering Results: Key Measures

A. Simplification and costs savings

The [Defence Mini Omnibus](#) entered into force on 23 December 2025. It amended the Digital Europe Programme, Horizon Europe, the EDF, the Connecting Europe Facility and the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform. Its key defence results include creating the legal basis for Ukraine's association to the EDF, allowing the EIC Accelerator to support dual-use and defence-related companies, and enabling the EDF work programme to use more flexible selection methods, award criteria and procedures for disruptive-technology calls.

Following the [Commission's commitments for simplification](#) and our proposal for a [Defence Readiness Omnibus](#) in June 2025, co-legislators reached a [provisional deal](#) on 10 June 2026. The package simplifies rules for defence industries and armed forces:

- A new [regulation for accelerated permit-granting procedures of defence readiness projects](#) introduces a 42-working-day deadline for national authorities to assess and grant permits for projects that strengthen Member States' defence readiness. The [Staff Working Document](#) analysing the cost and benefits of the original proposal of the Commission estimated the annual cost savings (i.e. administrative savings for companies) at a minimum EUR 638 million annually.
- The agreement also makes access to the [European Defence Fund](#) (EDF) easier. In particular it simplifies the award criteria used to evaluate proposals and introduces the possibility of selecting only the most relevant award criteria based on the objectives of each call while keeping excellence and the quality and efficiency of implementation mandatory for all calls. This will make the evaluation process faster, more agile and less burdensome for applicants, notably for SMEs and disruptive non-thematic calls for which dedicated provisions will enable simpler, faster and more flexible support to innovators. Complementary non-legislative measures will also speed up the evaluation process, shorten the time needed to sign grant agreements and issue payments, such as the allowance of higher level of subcontracting and an extended validity of ownership control assessments. Also, EDF grant award criteria have been simplified, notably for SMEs and disruptive non-thematic calls, in order to provide simpler, faster and more flexible support to innovators. The agreement also introduces an optional award criterion reflecting the needs of Member States exposed to conventional military threats and facilitates eligible testing activities in Ukraine. The cost savings of these changes are estimated at EUR 26 million annually to the industry, in addition to EUR 74 million of opportunity cost savings.

- The package also clarifies how [EU chemicals legislation](#) applies to the defence sector. It amends the current defence derogations in the REACH Regulation 1907/2006/EC, the CLP Regulation 1272/2008/EC, the BPR Regulation 528/2012/EU, and the POPs Regulation 2019/1021/EU. This will support a more consistent application of the EU chemical *acquis* and allow chemical substances in supply chains for defence interests, incorporating the defence readiness objective. The text also strengthens the prerogative of Member States to establish exemptions from certain EU legal requirements for chemicals in the interest of defence. Administrative cost savings are estimated at a minimum of EUR 36 million annually for companies, on top of the legal clarity and certainty brought by the changes.
- It also updates the [Directive 2009/81/EC on defence procurement](#). It raises the thresholds of the Directive so that Member States can focus on the most critical contracts and reduce the administrative burden linked to smaller procurement procedures. It gives contracting authorities more flexibility by adding new procedural tools, including the open procedure, dynamic purchasing systems, innovation partnerships and a specific procedure for procurement involving authorities from different Member States. It further allows framework agreement to last 10 years instead of 7. The amendments also clarify the rules for cooperative programmes based on research and development. In addition, they align certain technical provisions with the [civil procurement directives](#) (e.g. on rules on modification of contracts), taking account of the Court of Justice case-law, including simpler rules for low-value contract changes (“de minimis” amendments). Those could bring administrative cost savings benefits of a minimum of EUR 7.3 million annually for public administrations.
- The package also simplifies [intra-EU transfers of defence products](#). It introduces three new General Transfer Licences: (i) for transfers under an EU-funded defence industrial programme such as the European Defence Fund, (ii) between certified recipients and certified suppliers, and (iii) within a structured intra-EU industrial partnership. It also confirms that Member States may create other general transfer licenses beyond those already listed in the Directive in Article 5(2). These changes will support industrial innovation, help the ramp up of production through easier cross-border cooperation. They will also simplify transfers linked to European Defence Fund projects and reduce costs and delays. The agreement also adds seven new cases in which transfers do not need prior authorisation. This gives Member States more flexibility in applying transfer controls. It also introduces more proportionate information and reporting requirements, which will reduce unnecessary burdens for industry. The changes would save a minimum of EUR 29 million annually in administrative costs for companies.

The [EDIP Regulation](#) adopted in December 2025 also simplifies common procurement procedures by Member States in two ways:

- **Regulatory simplification of procurement procedures:** it introduces the possibility for a Member State to join the framework contract of another Member State in the event of a crisis (Article 52). To support the convergence of military capabilities, it also allows the use of the negotiated procedure without publication of a contract notice to join framework agreements of other Member States to procure identical products in the context of a defence cooperation initiative (Article 53).
- **Facilitation of structured cooperation:** It introduces the possibility of structured cooperation in armament programmes with a life-cycle approach through Structures for European Armament Programmes (SEAPs) created by Article 40 and not subject to the rules of the Defence Procurement Directive.

On 19 November 2025, the Commission adopted the [EU Defence Industry Transformation Roadmap](#). Its simplification and acceleration measures include faster and simpler EDF procedures for disruptive technologies, fast-track and cross-border access to testing environments, mutual recognition of certification and validation, and more innovation-friendly procurement, including fast-track procurement for low-cost and disruptive products.

As a first implementation measure under this Roadmap, on 25 March 2026, we presented a new EUR 115 million programme, [AGILE](#), aimed to bring disruptive defence technology from the lab to the field at greater speed. This pilot instrument is also set to accelerate the market uptake of these innovative products and technologies by the

end users (Member States armed forces), focusing on supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including start-ups and scale-ups.

As part of the wider defence simplification agenda, on 19 November 2025 the Commission and the High Representative adopted the [Joint Communication on Military Mobility](#) and presented the accompanying legislative package, aimed at establishing an EU-wide Military Mobility Area by the end of 2027. The proposed framework would harmonise cross-border permissions, establish a maximum three-working-day processing period, streamline customs procedures and create fast-track arrangements for crisis situations.

The **SAFE Regulation**, adopted under Article 122 TFEU and in force since 29 May 2025, provides the most far-reaching immediately applicable procurement simplifications in the reporting period. Article 19 automatically deems procurements involving at least one Member State receiving SAFE assistance to satisfy the crisis-urgency condition under Article 28(1), point (c), of Directive 2009/81/EC, enabling use of the negotiated procedure without prior publication. Article 18 permits existing framework agreements and contracts to be opened to additional contracting authorities and allows the necessary substantial increases in quantities. Article 20 exempts supplies, intra-EU acquisitions and imports under SAFE-supported contracts from VAT, with deductibility of VAT paid at the preceding stage. The financing procedure is also accelerated: Council decisions should normally follow within four weeks of the Commission proposal, payment requests are assessed within two months, and up to 15% pre-financing is available.

We tabled the proposal for the [EU Space Act](#) in June 2025. At present, this proposal is being examined by the co-legislators under ordinary legislative procedure. At this stage, its impact on simplification and cost savings can only be assessed in broad terms, pending adoption. Once adopted, the EU Space Act will address growing regulatory fragmentation across Member States by setting out a harmonised EU framework on the safety, resilience, and environmental sustainability of space activities. In particular, it will contribute to simplification and reduction of administrative burdens on space operators by:

- creating a level-playing field across the EU through the harmonisation of certain technical requirements for authorisation of space activities in the key areas of safety, resilience and environmental sustainability,
- avoiding overlap, duplication and conflicts between national legislation, thereby improving the internal market,
- streamlining the national authorisation processes in the Union through the establishment of a mutual recognition mechanism concerning those technical requirements, thus facilitating the provision of space-based services and data in the internal market, and
- proposing one single process per satellite constellation concerning the compliance with the technical requirements set out in the Act rather than per satellite, creating regulatory simplification for operators that have several spacecraft with the same mission configurations to avoid a duplicative process,

More broadly, the Act should make it easier to do business in the space sector and generate direct savings for European space companies. It should also help reduce the creation of new space debris by promoting safer and more sustainable space operations.

Looking at how to improve our actions and **stress-test** our initiatives, we undertook in 2025 an **evaluation** of the **Directive 2009/43/EC** on the **intra-EU transfer of defence-related products** to be published in autumn 2026, identifying barriers and drivers for the Directive to reach its full potential. The Commission is preparing the first **annual report** on the implementation of the **SAFE** instrument under Article 15 of Regulation (EU) 2025/1106, covering the period from May 2025 to June 2026. The report addresses Plan assessments, the adoption of Council Implementing Decisions, loan agreements and will be submitted to Parliament and the Council simultaneously upon publication. We are also preparing a report evaluating the impact and effectiveness of the actions taken under the **EDIRPA** programme, which is due to be adopted by the end of 2026. A report evaluating the first years of implementation of the **IRIS²** programme will also be completed in 2026. Finally, preparatory work has started to assess the implementation of **EDIP**, which is due by 30 June 2027.

Delegated and implementing acts are needed to ensure up-to-date legislation and its swift implementation. However, if they proliferate, they may also be a source of complexity and costs. The Commission has therefore embarked on a **screening exercise**. In 2026 in the field of defence industry and space we give priority to acts that are legally required and/or needed to implement our programmes. Further acts might need to be adopted related to EDIP, since these are conditional on external factors which cannot be easily foreseen, such as for securing supply for defence products under a supply crisis state. One act has been deprioritised in the field of space as the legal requirement was sufficiently covered by the Implementing act on the GOVSATCOM services.

We are also striving towards simplified and more coherent **external communication** on EU Defence, such as the [“Protect What Matters: European Defence”](#), and on EU Space such as the [streaming of EU satellite launches](#). Rather than communicating primarily on the basis of individual programmes or projects, we are also developing a more strategic and policy-oriented framing to make it easier to present EU action in a clearer, more accessible and more meaningful way for the public. Good examples are the [EU Defence and Space Exhibitions](#) and the [EU Space website](#).

B. Implementation

To ensure proper implementation support, a variety of activities are conducted to collect feedback from stakeholders and beneficiaries. There is **constant interaction with industrial stakeholders**, including SMEs, and Member States through Programme Committees, **expert groups** on policies and programmes relevant to space and defence industry and regular dedicated **events**. Since August 2025, there were events such as the [EDF info days](#) on 10-11 March 2026 gathering more than 5,000 stakeholders, bringing together decision-makers, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, and investors as well as the [EU Space Days](#) on 26-27 May 2026, - which attracted approximately 450 onsite participants and over 1,000 online attendees - providing a valuable platform for stakeholder engagement, knowledge exchange, and networking across the European space ecosystem.

As a follow up to the [Communication on a Vision for the European Space Economy](#) adopted in 2025, DG DEFIS continues implementing the **CASSINI Business Accelerator**. The programme provides business support and mentoring services to space companies. So far, it has supported 140 companies in 7 batches. The first 60 companies reported strong revenue growth after one year: +350% for batch 1, +140% for batch 2, and +178% for batch 3.

In addition my services organised regular **workshops with industry and Member States** to collect their views on implementation, such as a joint workshop on 18 November 2025 with industry and Member States on the intra-EU Transfers Directive in the context of the evaluation of the Directive, on 26 March 2026 a workshop on making the EU internal market a strategic enabler for defence, reflecting on concrete measures to foster development of a more efficient internal market supporting defence supply chains, and on 22 June 2026, a workshop dedicated to SMEs on the EU Internal Market for Defence and EU defence programmes – EUDIS and AGILE.

To allow for an open exchange on avenues for improvement in our initiatives, I also organised two [implementation dialogues](#), **one on space and one on defence**:

The [Implementation Dialogue on Space on 5 November 2025](#) involved 23 stakeholders from the EU space sector. They reaffirmed the need for speed, coherence, and confidence in implementing the Union Space Policy. They highlighted the importance of fostering innovation, risk-taking, and collaboration while ensuring Europe’s strategic autonomy, competitiveness, and the integration of civil and defence objectives. Participants proposed [several measures](#) for the Commission to explore. I highlighted that the proposed EU Space Act aims to reduce fragmentation, leverage the Single Market, and simplify regulatory and administrative processes, recalling that European autonomy in space is essential for security, resilience and competitiveness.

Regarding the Implementation Dialogue's conclusions on **access to space**, and the support for aggregation, DEFIS is developing the ELSA (European Launch Services Aggregation) platform, to aggregate institutional launchers needs, while the Flight Ticket initiative is providing launching contracts to EU companies to the benefits of the IOD/IOD initiative to support rapid technology testing demonstration in orbit. In order to support a market-driven approach to launcher selection and extend launches opportunity, the Commission has decided to re-open the competition to allow new entrants to be part of the Flight Ticket pool of launch service providers.

The [Communication on a Vision for the European Space Economy](#) adopted in 2025, includes several actions already addressing the conclusions and main challenges identified during the Implementation Dialogue. DG DEFIS is working on a roadmap to monitor their implementation but some of them are already under development. For example, in the frame of the **Earth Observation onboarding scheme** the EU intends to act as a central purchasing body, reducing the administrative burden of local authorities. Additionally, in line with the Communication, the Commission has established **Space Team Europe**, to identify areas where political guidance is needed and develop an agenda for the space economy. Furthermore, the Commission and EUSPA are launching initiatives such as Space4Cities and Make it With Space to facilitate the **uptake of space data**. In addition, a dynamic purchasing system has been set up for the procurement of commercial Earth observation data from Copernicus Contributing Missions. It is an agile system that has been very much welcomed by businesses.

Moreover, to facilitate ensuring long-term investment through **technology roadmaps**, the Commission has been developing the EU Observatory of Critical Technologies for space and defence, which identifies, monitors and assesses dependencies and risks for critical technologies, components and advanced materials. The identified dependencies and criticalities are systematically translated into respective technology roadmaps to be implemented as far as possible in the next European Multiannual Financial Framework

The full implementation of the EU Space Strategy for Security and Defence has been completed in 2026 with its 5 pillars: (1) the setting up of the **annual Space Threat Landscape**, (2) the enhancement of the **resilience of EU Space systems and services**, (3) the updated **EU response to space threats**, (4) the proposal for a **governmental service** in each component of the Space Programme in the MFF 2028-2034, and (5) the establishment of **new partnerships** including with NATO. This implementation being completed, my services are preparing with the European External Action Service a Communication on the European Space Shield Action Plan.

I also chaired an [Implementation dialogue on EU defence on 17 June 2026](#) on the sidelines of the Eurosatory exhibition in Paris. It involved 26 companies featuring large primes (40%), new defence players (30%) and critical suppliers, including SMEs (30%). The dialogue focused on how to reach mass production of defence products. Participants welcomed Commission efforts in delivering the Defence Readiness Omnibus, as well as the recent instruments EDIP, SAFE, and AGILE to ramp up industrial production. However, challenges remain, and participants suggested several avenues for action:

- Greater involvement of the civilian manufacturing sector, both as a source of skilled workforce, and spare production capacity, and to draw inspiration from its mass manufacturing processes and techniques.
- Pursuing a greater reliance on civilian standards where possible, especially for low-cost, high technology readiness level products, - while recognising that this is not possible for several products with higher safety requirements, or where no civilian production exists.
- Unlocking more efficient production by further standardising requirements, revisiting a trade-off between highly specific products which cannot be mass produced, and products which do not meet all requirements, but can be manufactured at scale.
- Envisioning a role for the Commission in contracting surge production capacity.
- Improving access to spaces for testing defence equipment.
- Better translating demand signals from prime contractors to the SMEs in the supply chain.
- Structuring regional integration of supply chains first, then scaling this up to EU level.

These discussions provided useful insights to inform upcoming initiatives, notably the **ongoing revision of the Defence Procurement Directive**, and to shape discussions with co-legislators on the **future European Competitiveness Fund** with a view to reinforcing European defence readiness. To translate the political-level conclusion from the Implementation Dialogue for greater civilian industry engagement, a Project Team on repurposing was launched within the framework of the [Industry Forum](#). It will involve key civilian industry stakeholders and Member States. The Project Team will serve as a forum to share best practices and identify challenges in repurposing and integrate best practices from the civilian industry to the defence industry.

Since the **SAFE Instrument** entered into force in May 2025, we have taken several measures to facilitate its implementation by Member States while keeping administrative burden to minimum. We created **a dedicated service within DG DEFIS** to guide Member States in the implementation of SAFE. The service established and supported the [SAFE Special Group](#), which provides expert guidance and strategic coordination to Member States. Between September 2025 and June 2026, the SAFE Special Group met six times in plenary and held six additional thematic meetings on audit and control requirements, security arrangements and practical implementation issues. During the same period, the Commission held over 200 bilateral meetings with Member States to support Plan development and address assessment findings. We also developed **supporting materials**, including a draft investment plan, guidance notes, and replies to frequently asked questions. 19 Member States have submitted loan requests totalling EUR 146 billion out of the EUR 150 billion available. From 8 May 2026 onwards, **loan agreements were signed with thirteen Member States**, amounting to EUR 107 billion. The first payment following the signatures was made on 29 May 2026.

The [Ukraine Support Loan](#) Regulation was adopted on 24 February 2026. On 23 April 2026, the Council made available to Ukraine EUR 28.3 billion to support its defence industrial capacities in the year 2026. By 31 July 2026, the Commission has approved so-called product schedules for drones, ammunition, air defence and missiles and disbursed nearly EUR 8.4 billion for defence products under the programme.

Following the adoption of the [EDIP Regulation](#), work rapidly progressed towards its implementation. In March 2026, we adopted the EDIP multi-annual work programme, unlocking EUR 1.5 billion, and launched a first call for proposals in April targeting energetic components. More than EUR 700 million are allocated to increasing the production of critical defence components and products, including counter-drone systems, missiles and ammunition. This includes EUR 260 million under the Ukraine Support Instrument to rebuild and modernise Ukraine's Defence Technological and Industrial Base. The rest of the funding will mainly support the establishment and deployment of [European Defence Projects of Common Interest \(EDPCIs\)](#); incentivise the joint procurement of defence equipment by Member States and Norway; provide equity support for defence start-ups, SMEs and small mid-caps; and, under the [BraveTech EU initiative](#), support defence innovation in the EU and Ukraine.

As a follow-up, on 3 July 2026, we proposed **five large-scale EDPCIs** to help EU countries strengthen their defence capabilities by cooperating on key strategic, pan-European and long-term projects in the field of: 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. After their formal establishment by the Council, they will become eligible for support under EDIP, enabling their initial deployment and paving the way for possible further funding under the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework. As we progress with the implementation of EDIP, the next priorities will include the operationalisation of the [Structures for European Armament Programmes](#), which provide a streamlined framework for Member States, associated countries and Ukraine to manage armament programmes.

In February 2026, we also initiated the work of the [Security of Supply Board](#) established under EDIP. Composed of the Member States and the Commission, the Board plays a central role in the security-of-supply regime, supervising and coordinating activities related to the mapping and monitoring of supply chains, enhancing preparedness, and supporting the identification and coordination of mitigation measures in times of crisis.

C. Enforcement

Infringement procedures, notably based on complaints, under the [Defence Procurement Directive](#) and the [Intra-EU Defence Transfers Directive](#) are constantly monitored and reviewed. One [case](#) is opened since February 2024 concerning a [potential breach of the Defence Public Procurement by Czechia](#) in relation to the procurement of military helicopters and remains under assessment. More information about the enforcement tools of the Commission can be found [here](#). The Commission also publishes information on its enforcement activities on a dedicated [webpage](#), where the public can perform targeted searches and customise graphs.

During the reporting period, the Commission engaged in several activities related to the enforcement of the [Defence Procurement Directive](#), with **five** [pre-infringement dialogues](#) ongoing with Member States regarding their application of the directive (Austria, Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary, Spain). Most of these dialogues, which were all initiated prior to 1 January 2026, concern the use of exemptions from the directive's scope, particularly with regards to procurement procedures and industrial participation requirements, with one of the dialogues stemming from a complaint. The Commission has been actively working with the concerned Member States to address the underlying issues. Additionally, between January and July 2026, DG DEFIS received [three](#) further complaints related to the directive's application. The Commission's enforcement work in the field of defence procurement and intra-EU transfer of defence products aims to ensure a uniform and precise application of EU rules, thereby facilitating the smooth functioning of the EU-wide market for defence goods.

4. Way forward

As announced in the [Joint White Paper for European Defence and the Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030](#), we will table a proposal for a **revision of the legislative framework for Defence and Sensitive Security Procurement by Autumn 2026**. This will be supported by a comprehensive impact assessment providing a large picture of the current issues surrounding the text and possible costs and benefits of different policy options for the future, building on a wide public consultation. The objective of this revision is to support the European defence industry and Member States ramping up production and building a strong European internal market for defence by facilitating defence investments and reducing market fragmentation. This revision will simplify the rules and align them with civil procurement rules to streamline procedures, reduce bureaucracy, and make it easier for businesses to navigate the system, especially SMEs, innovators and new entrants.

My services will continue organising **European-wide and national information days and sessions**, as well as participate in key defence and space technological exhibitions to inform potential applicants about EU funding opportunities and get their feedback on potential for improvements of our European initiatives. An **Implementation Dialogue on Space** will be organised by the end of 2026 to gather feedback from stakeholders on existing and new initiatives, identifying potential for improvement and simplification.

Preparations for the implementation of the forthcoming [European Competitiveness Fund](#), which will succeed the EDF, EDIP and AGILE as the Union's funding instrument for the European defence industry, will continue.

Annex: examples

1. Accelerated permit-granting procedures

The **Defence Readiness Omnibus** will create **faster permitting procedures for defence readiness projects** across all Member States and in all situations, introducing a **42 working day deadline** for permit decisions, which can be extended at maximum up to 102 working days. This Regulation is making **tacit approval** the rule, except for specific cases which must be legislated upon by Member States. Defence project promoters will have clear **single points of contact** in the administration to speed up and simplify the whole process. This will strongly help critical defence projects move forward much more quickly compared to the current situations, where some projects were reported to have been delayed by years.

2. Satellite-based monitoring enabling simplification of Common Agricultural Policy

Thanks to [Copernicus](#) we are simplifying the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy by introducing systematic, **satellite-based monitoring of agricultural parcels** in [the Integrated Administration and Control System \(IACS\)](#) reducing the need for on-site inspections and cumbersome paperwork. Data from the Copernicus Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 missions support the EU's Area Monitoring System by providing frequent, high-resolution observations throughout the growing season, enabling regular monitoring of crop development, soil moisture, and tillage practices even under adverse weather conditions. Derived vegetation indices allow to assess crop type, growth stage, and biomass, supporting both yield estimation and compliance checks under CAP conditionality rules. With revisit times of a few days and spatial resolution suitable for **parcel-level analysis**, the use of Copernicus **enables continuous, objective monitoring and helps reduce the reliance on costly on-the-spot field inspections** while **improving the accuracy and transparency of subsidy administration**.

3. Simplifying access to EU defence funding through EDF

We have implemented a comprehensive simplification agenda to reduce administrative burdens and streamline **access to EU defence funding**, thereby stimulating new investment in the European defence sector. In 2025, the Commission proposed several major simplification initiatives through the mini-omnibus and the Defence Readiness Omnibus. The mini-Omnibus created the legal basis for Ukraine's association to the EDF and allowed more flexible procedures for disruptive-technology calls; Ukraine will become fully associated to the EDF once the Association Agreement on the participation of Ukraine in the EDF signed in July 2026, will formally enter into force. The administrative burden linked to **company ownership verification** has been significantly reduced by extending the validity of Ownership Control Assessments (OCAs) from 18 to 36 months. Also, **EDF grant award criteria** have been simplified, notably for SMEs and disruptive non-thematic calls, in order to provide simpler, faster and more flexible support to innovators. **These changes cut application documentation requirements by around half**, allowing companies to save substantial time and resources. Taken together, these measures are expected to generate **total cost savings exceeding EUR 100 million per year for both industry and the Commission**. **Lump-sum financing** was applied to the maximum extent possible, in particular in EDF calls targeting innovative SMEs. In parallel, work has continued to introduce **simpler and leaner funding cycles** to facilitate the rapid integration of cutting-edge defence solutions into operational systems, including through agile testing and validation, enabling accelerated implementation timelines that keep pace with technological change. In addition, all EDF projects will be able to use the Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) mechanism, further **facilitating the participation of start-ups and SMEs** through simplified access to funding and easier integration into collaborative projects. Addressing the EDF Interim Evaluation outcomes, the combined effect of these simplifications and the shorter duration of disruptive projects will accelerate the integration of new defence solutions and enable more cost-efficient development of innovative technologies, with the **potential to shorten overall timelines by up to 28 months**.

4. AGILE: facilitating access to defence innovation support for SMEs and non-traditional defence players.

Following feedback from stakeholders including as part of the 2025 implementation dialogues, the **AGILE** proposal was designed to directly reduce administrative burden in defence funding. For example, it **favours simplified cost options** such as lump sums, cutting the reporting work needed to justify costs, and **allows funding of up to 100%** of costs, removing the need for companies to secure co-financing. Drawing on experience from the European Defence Fund, it also allows calls to **select only the most relevant award criteria** for their objectives, rather than applying all of them by default, and introduces a **two-phase evaluation**, with a quick go/no-go check before the full assessment. Finally, AGILE allows **single entities** to participate, removing the need to form a consortium, a constraint that had particularly discouraged SMEs new to the defence sector.