



## Commission and High Representative present new Defence Roadmap to strengthen European defence capabilities

Brussels, 16 October 2025

Today, the Commission and the High Representative have proposed to EU Member States the '**Preserving Peace - Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030**', a comprehensive plan to strengthen European defence capabilities.

European Commission President Ursula **von der Leyen** said: *"The recent threats have shown that Europe is at risk. We have to protect every citizen and square centimetre of our territory. And Europe must respond with unity, solidarity and determination. Today's Defence Roadmap presents a clear plan with shared goals and concrete milestones on our path to 2030. Because only what gets measured gets done. Moving from plans to action, the Roadmap proposes four European Flagships: the European Drone Defence Initiative, the Eastern Flank Watch, the European Air Shield, and the Defence Space Shield. This will strengthen our defence industries, accelerate production and maintain our long-standing support to Ukraine."*

As requested by the European Council in June, the Defence Roadmap outlines clear objectives and milestones to close capability gaps, accelerate defence investments across Member States, and guide the EU's progress towards full defence readiness by 2030. Strengthening Europe's defence also means standing firmly with Ukraine.

### European Readiness Flagships

To act swiftly where a joint approach is most effective, the Defence Roadmap proposes four initial **European Readiness Flagships**: The European Drone Defence Initiative, the Eastern Flank Watch, the European Air Shield, and the Defence Space Shield. These will reinforce Europe's ability to deter and defend across land, air, sea, cyber, and space while contributing directly to NATO capability targets.

### Readiness through Capability Coalitions

Achieving full defence readiness means ensuring that Member States' armed forces can anticipate, prepare for, and respond to any crisis, including high-intensity conflict. The roadmap calls on Member States to complete the formation of Capability Coalitions in nine key areas — to close critical capability gaps through joint development and procurement.

These are air & missile defence; strategic enablers; military mobility; artillery systems; cyber, AI, electronic warfare; missile & ammunition; drones & counter-drones; ground combat; and maritime.

### A strong, resilient and technologically innovative EU defence industrial base

Closing gaps requires an EU defence industry that can deliver the capabilities that Member States need at the necessary scale and speed. The full potential of innovation for defence, including Ukrainian solutions, should be tapped. The resilience of defence supply chains should be secured, including by reducing critical dependencies in raw materials and other critical inputs.

### Boosting Defence Investment

A simplified and integrated European defence equipment market is key for scaling up production, achieving economies of scale, and driving innovation. By 2030, the goal is to establish a genuine EU-wide market with harmonised rules that enable industry to deliver at speed and volume. The Commission will track industrial capacity — starting with air and missile defence, drones, and space systems — to ensure Europe can meet its most urgent needs.

The roadmap follows the **ReArm Europe Plan/Readiness 2030**, a major boost in public and private investment, which gives Member States greater financial flexibility to strengthen production and readiness. The European Commission and the High Representative will present this roadmap to the European Council, including the proposals for pan-European flagship projects that will guide Europe to full defence readiness by 2030.

The roadmap also sets out plans to establish an EU-wide military mobility area by 2027, with harmonised rules and a network of land, air, and sea routes to move troops and equipment swiftly across Europe. Developed in close coordination with NATO, this will strengthen Europe's ability to respond rapidly to crises.

## Background

In March 2025, the Commission and the High Representative put forward the joint White Paper for European Defence – Readiness 2030 complemented by the Commission's ReArm Europe Plan/Readiness 2030, an ambitious defence package providing financial levers to EU Member States to drive an investment surge in defence capabilities.

The activation of the national escape clause of the Stability and Growth Pact for defence purposes together with the Security Action for Europe (SAFE) loan form the backbone of the ReArm Europe Plan / Readiness 2030, enabling Member States to substantially and rapidly scale up their investments in European defence.

In June 2025, the European Council invited the Commission and the High Representative to present a roadmap to review progress on the White Paper and discuss the next steps in the implementation of its defence readiness objective.

## For More Information

[Joint Communication Preserving Peace - Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030](#)

[Readiness 2030 factsheet](#)

[White Paper for European Defence Readiness 2030 factsheet](#)

[ReArm Europe plan Factsheet](#)

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Quote(s):

*"The recent threats have shown that Europe is at risk. We have to protect every citizen and square centimetre of our territory. And Europe must respond with unity, solidarity and determination. Today's Defence Roadmap presents a clear plan with shared goals and concrete milestones on our path to 2030. Because only what gets measured gets done. Moving from plans to action, the Roadmap proposes four European Flagships: the European Drone Defence Initiative, the Eastern Flank Watch, the European Air Shield, and the Defence Space Shield. This will strengthen our defence industries, accelerate production and maintain our long-standing support to Ukraine."*

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission - 16/10/2025

*"As we unveil the EU defence roadmap, we are taking decisive steps towards a more secure and self-reliant Europe. By enhancing our collective capabilities and deepening cooperation among member states, we are ensuring that Europe is prepared to face the challenges of today and tomorrow with strength and unity. Together, we are building a stronger defence framework that underscores the EU's role as a pillar of stability on the global stage."*

Henna Virkkunen, Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy - 16/10/2025

*"Defence is a prerequisite for preserving peace and Europe's defences are not yet as strong as they should be. The roadmap we present today is a proposal to change this. Over the next few years, we envisage a major build-up of European capabilities across the Union, in line with NATO targets. Our armed forces must be able to anticipate, prepare for and respond to any crisis. There are major opportunities here, not least for Europe's defence industry, but also for European countries who we encourage to work together on projects that serve the collective interest. It is high time to turn Europe's economic might into military strength, and quickly."*

Kaja Kallas, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission - 16/10/2025

*"Today is delivery day. Our Roadmap will guide Europe to deliver on defence readiness by 2030. We are building on the unprecedented decisions we took during this year, which created a 'big bang' in defence spending and legal, industrial and political opportunities to boost defence production. Our roadmap today creates conditions for clear plans, timetables, deliverables and indicators and a clear reporting and monitoring system, to ramp up procurement and production, bring permanent defence innovation, build European defence flagship projects and produce with, in and for Ukraine. Our roadmap shows all the major milestones to achieve Defence Readiness by 2030, so we can deter Russian aggression, prevent war and preserve peace. Our policy is production, our purpose is peace."*

Andrius Kubilius, Commissioner for Defence and Space - 16/10/2025

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