Bundeswehr/Modes (CC BY 2.0)

en | de | es

Press release | 18.04.2019

European Defence Fund boost for the defence industry with no Parliamentary scrutiny

Quote from Reinhard Bütikofer MEP

MEPs have just adopted a €13 billion boost for the defence industry. The new fund will provide arms companies with fresh money from the EU budget as of 2021. The majority of MEPs voted to waiver their parliamentary scrutiny over the design of the programme.

The Greens/EFA succeeded in ensuring that no money will be invested in killer robots in the future. On the initiative of the Greens/EFA group, the European Parliament voted as early as 12 September 2018 for a ban on autonomous weapons systems.

Reinhard Bütikofer, defence spokesperson and shadow rapporteur for the Greens/EFA group, comments:

"The European Defence Fund provides the defence industry with an economic stimulus package worth billions. Yet, the Fund hardly helps the Common European Security and Defence Policy because it leaves military duplications and overcapacities unaddressed. It is scandalous that the European Parliament has refused to supervise this expenditure of more than 13 billion euros over seven years.

"We firmly reject the fact that arms subsidies may even be invested in the development of weapons of mass destruction. The Fund as a whole will boost the export of arms to authoritarian regimes, because there will be no export controls at EU level.

"The only glimmer of hope is that no EU money will be allowed to flow into the development of killer robots. We will continue to fight for killer robots to be banned worldwide and call on the United Nations to push for a global ban on such weapons."

Resolution of the European Parliament on autonomous weapons systems, 12 September 2018
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+TA+P8-TA-2018-0341+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN

Recommended

News

©hassan-anayi



PLENARY FLASH: Greens/EFA Priorities 19 to 22 October

16.10.2026

Press release

Edoardo Bortoli



[AGILE will boost EU sovereignty without funding lethal…]

06.10.2026

News

© European Union 2015 - Source EP



PLENARY FLASH: Greens/EFA Priorities 14 to 17 Septemb…

11.09.2026

News

©lukas-s/unsplash



PLENARY FLASH: Greens/EFA Priorities 6 to 10 July

06.07.2026

Responsible MEPs



Reinhard Bütikofer

Member

Contact person



Alex Johnson

Please share

- E-Mail