

[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 waive 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

Press release

Photo by Mike Benna on Unsplash



[Russian energy phase-out: “Finish the job”](#)

21.05.2025

News

©hassan-anayi



[Debriefing of the May 2025 Plenary Session](#)

09.05.2025

Press release

Image by Dan Novac from Pixabay

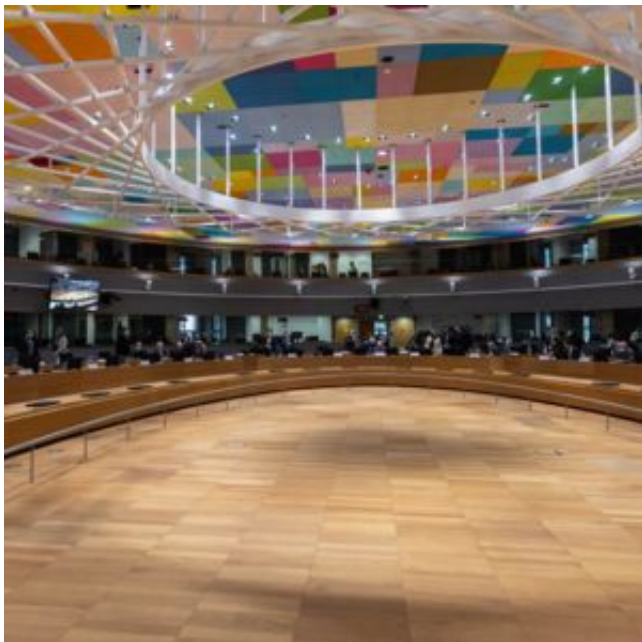


[Decisions on Cohesion Funds should not be rushed throu...](#)

07.05.2025

Press release

European Council (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)



[EU must invest more in its own security – Greens/EFA c...](#)

20.03.2025

Responsible MEPs



Reinhard Bütikofer

Member

Contact person



Alex Johnson

Press & Media Advisor EN (English language press)

Please share

[•E-Mail](#)