

ASD Statement on the Joint White Paper for European Defence Readiness 2030

Brussels, 19 March 2025 – Today, the European Commission and the High Representative presented the Joint White Paper for European Defence Readiness 2030.

The following statement can be attributed to the Aerospace, Security and Defence Industries Association of Europe (ASD):

“ASD welcomes today’s White Paper, setting a framework for a new approach to defence, and announcements to mobilise additional funding for defence.

As a trusted partner for our Armed Forces, the European defence industry stands ready to bolster Europe’s capacity to defend itself and deter military aggression. The industry is at a critical juncture: after decades of underinvestment, it must now scale up production dramatically and at an accelerated pace. To achieve this, urgent action from the EU and Member States is vital.

We support in particular the White Paper’s call for more collaborative procurement. Aggregation of demand and harmonisation of requirements would significantly contribute to achieving economies of scale, reducing lead-time and prices, and enhancing efficiency. At the same time, it is of utmost importance that new orders are placed with European providers to reduce critical dependencies and strengthen Europe’s security of supply and freedom of action.

From an industrial perspective, it is essential that European countries place orders for new defence equipment with a long-term perspective to provide planning certainty. With such visibility, the European defence industry is fully able and ready to rapidly increase production further, deliver at pace, and meet European needs with state-of-the art equipment and solutions.

We also welcome suggested measures in today’s White Paper that aim to ensure security of supply with essential raw materials and components, enhance access to finance, leverage the full industrial ecosystem including the role of SMEs, stimulate research to foster innovation, and facilitate the recruitment and (up-)skilling of labour force. Equally important is the announced Defence Omnibus Simplification to cut red tape and overcome regulatory hurdles.

Time is of essence. We therefore call upon all relevant stakeholders at EU and national level to act with speed, including to rapidly implement the proposals made in the White Paper.

The defence industry looks forward to the proposed Strategic Dialogue with the Commission.”

About ASD

ASD is the voice of the European Aerospace, Security and Defence Industries - the industry that connects and protects. Based in Brussels, the association's overall representation adds up to more than 4,000 companies, accounting for 98% of industry's total turnover and 93% of its total employment in Europe. ASD actively supports the competitive development of our industries in Europe and worldwide by advocating common positions and providing technical expertise to public institutions and member companies.

For more, visit <https://www.asd-europe.org/> and follow us on [LinkedIn](#).

Press contacts

Adrian Schmitz
ASD Communication Director
+32 473 13 33 30

adrian.schmitz@asd-europe.org

Benedikt Weingärtner
ASD Communication Manager
+32 472 13 39 20

benedikt.weingartner@asd-europe.org