

EU launches a common tool for defense procurement // How Moldova and Ukraine will benefit (anti-corruption.md)

The European Union strengthens its defense industry through a common procurement law. MEPs voted on Tuesday in plenary session in Strasbourg to strengthen a regulation, already agreed with the Council on June 27, which establishes a short-term instrument to strengthen the European defense industry through joint procurement until December 31, 2025. The instrument will be financed with a budget of €300 million (~\$317,019,463). Ukraine or the Republic of Moldova will be eligible for additional quantities of defense products.

This instrument "will help member states meet their most urgent and critical defense needs, which have been exacerbated by transfers of defense products to Ukraine, in a voluntary and collaborative way," according to Agerpres, quoted by [Digi24](#). Joint procurement will have to involve at least three member states and should be open to participation by members of the European Free Trade Association who are members of the European Economic Area (associated countries).

The cost of components originating in the EU or associated countries must not be less than 65% of the estimated value of the finished product. The EU financial contribution to each action will be limited to 15% of the estimated value of the joint procurement contract for each consortium.

This ceiling may be raised to 20% if Ukraine or the Republic of Moldova are beneficiaries of additional quantities of defense-related products or if at least 15% of the estimated value of the joint procurement contract is allocated to SMEs or mid-cap companies as contractors or subcontractors.

"Today's vote marks a historic moment for EU defense, establishing the first EU instrument for joint procurement by Member States. It will help them replenish their stocks, increase interoperability between our armed forces, strengthen our industry and contribute to our unwavering support for Ukraine. However, in the face of a historic crisis, EDIRPA can only be a starting point for a much more ambitious common defense agenda," said Foreign Affairs Committee co-rapporteur Michael Gahler (EPP-ED), German, after the vote, quoted in a European Parliament press release.

"We have reached a reasonable compromise that will make EDIRPA complementary to another important regulation for the defense sector: the Ammunition Production Support Act. We managed to defend Parliament's priorities, including for projects that will support Ukraine or the Republic of Moldova. Most importantly, by stepping up joint procurement of military equipment, EDIRPA will contribute to strengthening the defense capabilities of Member States," said the co-rapporteur from the Industry, Research and Energy Committee, Polish MEP Zdzisław Krasnodębski (European Conservatives and Reformists Group - ECR).

The legislation was adopted by 530 votes to 66 with 32 abstentions. It now needs formal Council approval to become law. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has dramatically underlined the need to adapt the European Defense Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB) to structural changes: stepping up EU military research and development, modernizing military equipment and strengthening cooperation between

Member States in defense procurement, in order for the Union to become a relevant global player, the EP statement added.

Source: anticoruptie.md