

**Question for written answer E-005201/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
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Subject: Doubts about implementation of the European Defence Industry Development Programme for 2019-2020

In June the Commission proposed a European Defence Industry Development Programme for 2019-2020, under which it will allocate EUR 500 million to support projects in their development phase.

Obtaining this financing will be conditional on the product under preparation being a cross-border project. Its developers must form a consortium comprising at least three companies from at least two Member States. The companies may not, however, be interdependent.

The aim of the legislative initiative is to support the Member States in developing and implementing technologies which are security-enhancing and can be applied to the defence sector. The conclusions drawn from the two-year programme will serve as a basis for a future programme to support defence technology research and development in the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework.

Given the short preparation time for this initiative, which is due to come into operation at the beginning of 2019, I would like to ask the following questions:

What steps will the Commission take to maintain a fair geographical distribution of the proposed measures?

How will these measures be allocated, given the concern that the programme will benefit only large defence companies from Germany, France and Italy, which often already have very advanced technological solutions? And what about companies from other countries which should be increasing their level of technical and technological competence for the sake of the common security of the EU?