



# Challenges ahead of the European Defence Fund

6.7.2021 [Meetings, agendas](#)



While the European Defence Fund (EDF) might be one of the most promising initiatives with its 7.9 billion euro budget under the new MFF, a recent study highlights recommendations and brings to light key obstacles.

## SEDE-commissioned study

On 31 May, during an exchange of views in the Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE), the authors of the SEDE-commissioned [study](#) presented the lessons learnt from the two predecessor programmes, [PADR](#) and [EDIDP](#), and underlined the obstacles lying ahead.

Research Director at the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (IRIS) Paris, Dr Edouard Simon, and Lawyer at the bar of Brussels and Associate Research Fellow at the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs (IRIS) Paris, Frederic Mauro, offered an analysis and suggest key areas to learn from the previous programmes and highlight the problems that need to be tackled.

## Challenges and lessons

The study comes at a decisive moment where interest is high on security issues and providing Europe with strategic autonomy, protecting and defending its citizens is crucial. The experts stressed the specific needs of defence research, especially for cross border cooperation, as well as the difficulty for member states to think “European” as a team.

The study also raised the problem of a lack of balance between supply and demand, as well as the difficulty of keeping the course between at times conflicting objectives and ensuring the return on a meaningful but still modest investment over seven years.

## EP's green light

On 29 April, the European Parliament backed this [scheme](#) in support for common cross-border defence R&D projects, to streamline costs and boost interoperability of defence systems.

This financing of common defence-related R&D projects is an important signal sent by the EU to its citizens and companies: Member States join forces to enhance the effectiveness of EU security and defence.

### Useful links:

- [SEDE](#)
- More on [EDF](#)

---

[Back to Announcements](#)