

Question for written answer E-004773/2021
to the Commission
Rule 138
Gianna Gancia (ID)

Subject: Need to speed up efforts to achieve greater EU coordination on defence

The way in which the withdrawal from Afghanistan was handled and the trilateral AUKUS agreement have made it extremely clear that the United States is turning its attention more and more to the Indo-Pacific region.

As a result, EU partners will need to accept greater responsibility for, on the one hand and based on lessons learned, safeguarding and integrating NATO's role and purpose as guarantor of the freedom and security of its member states and, on the other, ensuring the EU has greater geopolitical weight on the global stage.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission, in light of recent events, plan to step up its efforts to achieve a more stable and sustainable coordination of investment by Member States in industrial defence sectors?
2. Will it speed up the process involved in reaching the point of having a single means of defence for the EU, in accordance with the principle of 'European strategic autonomy'?