MEPs approve plans to provide more ammunition for Ukraine

- Faster delivery of ammunition to Ukraine
- €500 million in financing
- Scheme to cover artillery ammunition, missiles
On Thursday, Parliament adopted plans to increase EU production of ammunition and missiles to address the current shortage.

According to the text, agreed upon with Council last week, the Act in Support of Ammunition Production (ASAP) aims to accelerate the delivery of ammunition and missiles to Ukraine and to help member states restock their arsenals. By introducing targeted measures, including €500 million in financing, ASAP aims to ramp up the EU's production capacity to address the current shortage of defence products, specifically artillery ammunition, missiles and their components.

During negotiations with Council, MEPs ensured that a more diverse range of projects receive funding, and that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) would be eligible for a higher funding rate. They secured new financing that should not come at the expense of existing cohesion funding. MEPs also pushed to ensure that EU countries will provide Ukraine with the ammunition funded under this legislation, without it being subject to export restrictions.

Quote

EP negotiating team leader Cristian Bușoi (EPP, RO) said: “Today’s vote marks another step forward for Europe’s security and defence, and in our steadfast support of Ukraine in the face of the ongoing Russian aggression. We delivered on the most urgent aspect of the law: ensuring the provision of more ammunition for Ukraine. It is a testimony of Europe’s solidarity and for our collective security.”
Next steps

The legislation was adopted with 505 votes to 56, with 21 abstentions. It now also needs to be endorsed by Council in order to become law.

Background

The ASAP comes in response to a Ukrainian request to the EU to supply 155 mm-calibre artillery rounds and the agreement of the Council on 20 March 2023 on a three-track proposal on ammunition. Member states have been invited to urgently transfer ammunition from their own stocks to Ukraine (Track 1). EU countries have agreed to jointly procure one million ammunition rounds (Track 2). Track 3 aims to ramp up production capacity in the European defence industry. This should be achieved through the ASAP, which responds directly to the Council’s call to deliver ammunition urgently, and if requested missiles too, to Ukraine and to help member states restock their supplies.

Further information
Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

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Committee on Industry, Research and Energy

Procedure file

EP research briefing : Act in support of ammunition production (ASAP)
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