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COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2026/2221

of 28 September 2026

identifying European Defence Projects of Common Interest under Regulation (EU) 2025/2643 of the European Parliament and of the Council

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2025/2643 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2025 establishing the European Defence Industry Programme and a framework of measures to ensure the timely availability and supply of defence products ('EDIP Regulation') [1], and in particular Article 35(3) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

(1) On 16 February 2026, the Commission launched a call for expressions of interest aimed at consulting the Member States on the identification of possible European Defence Projects of Common Interest (EDPCIs), within the meaning of Article 35 of Regulation (EU) 2025/2643. By the deadline of 29 May 2026, Member States submitted nine project proposals for possible EDPCIs.

(2) Pursuant to Article 35(5), point (b), of Regulation (EU) 2025/2643, the Commission invited the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (the 'High Representative') and the European Defence Agency (EDA) to provide their expertise with a view to ensuring consistency with the priorities and objectives referred to in Article 35(2), points (b) to (d), of that Regulation, to complement the information provided by Member States regarding project proposals.

(3) Pursuant to Article 35(5), point (c), of Regulation (EU) 2025/2643, the Commission verified that all Member States and associated countries, and, where relevant, Ukraine, were informed of the emergence of a project and were given the opportunity to participate.

(4) The Commission, taking into account the information provided by the High Representative and the EDA, verified the compliance of the project proposals for possible EDPCIs under the call for expression of interest with the criteria laid down in Article 35(2) of Regulation (EU) 2025/2643 and proposed to identify five EDPCIs.

(5) The identified EDPCIs reinforce the competitiveness of the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base throughout the Union, while contributing to the development of Member States' military capabilities critical for the security and defence interests of the Union, and meet the criteria laid down in Article 35(2) of Regulation (EU) 2025/2643.

(6) The Council examined the proposal for an implementing act and agreed to the identification of the proposed five EPDCIs with the understanding that the intent of the Commission is to regularly assess whether additional projects could be identified as EDPCIs and to launch a second call for expressions of interest before the end of April 2027 and, on that basis, to consider further proposals for the identification of EDPCIs.

(7) Regulation (EU) 2025/2643 provides for the Commission to be able, where relevant, to participate in the EDPCIs listed in the Annex to this Decision and allows participating Member States to decide to involve the High Representative and the EDA as observers of an EDPCI,

[1] OJ L, 2025/2643, 29.12.2025, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/2643/oj.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The projects listed in the Annex are identified as European Defence Projects of Common Interest (EDPCIs), within the meaning of Article 35 of Regulation (EU) 2025/2643.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels, 28 September 2026.

For the Council

The President

K. KALLAS

ANNEX

The following projects are identified as European Defence Projects of Common Interest (EDPCIs):

Drone and Counter-Drone European Resolve (DECODER)

Objectives and characteristics of the EDPCI	DECODER aims to enable coordinated development, scaling and deployment of European unmanned and counter-unmanned systems' capabilities to address critical capability gaps across the participating countries. It aims to provide European armed forces with modern, adaptable, scalable and interoperable drone and counter-drone systems operating across all domains. DECODER will preserve and reinforce European technological sovereignty and industrial resilience. More specifically, DECODER will support joint procurement of necessary unmanned and counter-unmanned systems' capabilities, expand relevant industrial production capacity, develop new and upgrade existing solutions, and establish a European Network of Drone Technology Hubs to facilitate testing, and accelerate innovation and rapid force modernisation.
List of countries participating in the EDPCI as of the date of adoption of the implementing act	Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Ukraine.
Estimated overall financial size of the EDPCI	EUR 3 500 000 000 to 5 000 000 000 by 2033

Integrated Maritime and Seabed Defence (IMSD)

Objectives and characteristics of the EDPCI	IMSD aims to establish a federated and interoperable European maritime and seabed defence architecture capable of strengthening the participating countries' ability to prevent, detect, deter and respond to threats across the maritime domain. It is based on the integration of three mutually-reinforcing core pillars: Maritime Domain Awareness, Naval Combat & Maritime Interdiction, and Underwater & Seabed Warfare. More specifically, IMSD will enhance common Maritime Domain Awareness through an interoperable and integrated information-sharing architecture, and it will support coordinated industrial development, the scaling-up and common procurement of naval platforms, underwater systems, unmanned systems, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) tools, and underwater warfare capabilities. IMSD will also cover cooperation with civil authorities, delivering on the flagship action of the European Ocean Pact on Maritime Domain Awareness, including unmanned capabilities. IMSD will ultimately strengthen the protection of critical maritime and seabed infrastructure, including ports, offshore installations, underwater cables and pipelines.
List of countries participating in the EDPCI as of the date of adoption of the implementing act	Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Ukraine.
Estimated overall financial size of the EDPCI	EUR 43 000 000 000 to 72 000 000 000 by 2045

SPACE

Objectives and characteristics of the EDPCI	SPACE aims to bolster European space capabilities in space-based early warning (SBEW), satellite communications (SATCOM), intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), including signals intelligence (SIGINT), space domain awareness (SDA), positioning, navigation and timing (PNT), navigation warfare (NAVWAR) and responsive space systems (RSS), in a multi-mission approach. To bring together the missions outlined above, SPACE involves investigating the development of a multi-mission constellation. In particular, SPACE focuses on the common procurement of defence products, including necessary infrastructure, in support of common military planning tools for SATCOM sharing, PNT services, ISR capabilities and NAVWAR detection and denial capabilities. It also foresees further development of space-based capabilities which are key to providing independent decision-making.
List of countries participating in the EDPCI as of the date of adoption of the implementing act	Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Hungary, Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Romania, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Ukraine.
Estimated overall financial size of the EDPCI	Up to EUR 24 000 000 000 by 2034

EU Federated Integrated Air and Missile Defence including Early Warning (EU-FIAMD)

Objectives and characteristics of the EDPCI	EU-FIAMD aims to provide Member States with collective and effective integrated air and missile defence (IAMD), including early warning information and command and control considerations. It aims to enable countries to field IAMD-relevant capabilities in a timely manner and at the required quality and quantity, and to ensure that diverse national solutions can be effectively combined and jointly employed, including sensors, effectors and command and control environments. More specifically, EU-FIAMD focuses on creating an overarching common architecture at enterprise and capability level, industrial ramp-up of existing systems and common procurement of defence products. EU-FIAMD will also focus on development in support of critical technologies underpinning IAMD, as well as using infrastructure and certification environments enabling testing, validation and training for the future operational federation. Additionally, the architecture targets full compliance with the priorities, capability needs and interoperability requirements identified in NATO frameworks.
List of countries participating in the EDPCI as of the date of adoption of the implementing act	Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Cyprus, Hungary, Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Ukraine.
Estimated overall financial size of the EDPCI	EUR 55 000 000 000 to 80 000 000 000 by 2040

Eastern Flank Watch (EFW)	
Objectives and characteristics of the EDPCI	EFW aims to provide a comprehensive multi-domain effort to enhance the security of the eastern border of the participating countries, to ensure the protection of their entire territory, and thereby to strengthen their defence readiness. Initial EFW activities will target six capability pillars: ground combat, drone defence, C4ISTAR, counter-mobility, military-mobility, and air and missile defence systems. EFW involves the common procurement of products, services and infrastructure in support of those capabilities, as well as the expansion of relevant production capacity and facilities. Testing, validation and training for relevant operational platforms in support of the EFW initiative are also expected. EFW includes immediate short-term actions as well as mid-term developments.
List of countries participating in the EDPCI as of the date of adoption of the implementing act	Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Germany, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Ukraine.
Estimated overall financial size of the EDPCI	EUR 8 500 000 000 to 10 000 000 000 by 2032 Up to EUR 100 000 000 000 by 2036