

Basic information

2026/0078(COD)

COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Regulation

Programme for agile and rapid defence innovation (AGILE)

Subject

3.40.09 Defence and arms industry
3.45.02 Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME), craft industries
3.50.04 Innovation
6.10.02 Common security and defence policy (CSDP); WEU, NATO

Awaiting committee decision

Key players


European Parliament

Joint committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
<div style="border: 1px solid red; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">SEDE</div> Security and Defence	PICULA Tonino (S&D)	23/04/2026
<div style="border: 1px solid red; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">ITRE</div> Industry, Research and Energy	IJABS Ivars (Renew)	23/04/2026
	Shadow rapporteur FARSKÝ Jan (EPP) PASCUAL DE LA PARTE Nicolás (EPP) GORI Giorgio (S&D) THIONNET Pierre-Romain (PfE) RECHAGNEUX Julie (PfE) DONAZZAN Elena (ECR) DWORCZYK Michał (ECR) EROGLU Engin (Renew) VAN LANSCHOT Reinier (Greens/EFA) LAGODINSKY Sergey (Greens/EFA) BOTENGA Marc (The Left)	
Committee for budgetary assessment	Rapporteur for budgetary assessment	Appointed
<div style="border: 1px solid red; display: inline-block; padding: 2px;">BUDG</div> Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union		
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner
	Defence Industry and Space	KUBILIUS Andrius
European Economic and Social Committee		

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
25/03/2026	Legislative proposal published	COM(2026)0135 	Summary
27/04/2026	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2026/0078(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Regulation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 59 Rules of Procedure EP 58 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 173-p3
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee
Stage reached in procedure	Awaiting committee decision
Committee dossier	CJ55/10/05509

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Amendments tabled in committee		PE788.873	13/05/2026	
European Commission				
Document type	Reference	Date	Summary	
Legislative proposal	COM(2026)0135 	25/03/2026	Summary	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency				
Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
THIONNET Pierre-Romain	Shadow rapporteur	SEDE	06/05/2026	GROUPEMENT DES INDUSTRIES DE CONSTRUCTION ET ACTIVITES NAVALES Groupement des industries françaises de défense et de sécurité terrestres et aéroterrestres
PICULA Tonino	Rapporteur	SEDE	05/05/2026	Cyberagentur

Programme for agile and rapid defence innovation (AGILE)

2026/0078(COD) - 25/03/2026 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to establish the Programme for Agile and Rapid Defence Innovation (AGILE).

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: in recent years, the European Union has made substantial progress in strengthening defence research and development. The European Defence Fund (EDF) is the Union's flagship defence R&D programme and plays a central role in fostering structured, long-term and cooperative defence R&D across Europe. There is a need to enhance the EU's capacity to support rapid, high technology-readiness-level defence innovation that responds directly to the urgent capability development needs of Member States.

Despite promising defence innovations, there is a **gap between development and operational deployment**. This can slow the scaling of breakthrough solutions, limit the emergence of new defence players, and delay the translation of innovation into capabilities for armed forces. To address this specific gap, the EU Defence Industry Transformation Roadmap proposed the establishment of a programme for rapid and agile defence innovation (AGILE).

CONTENT: this proposed Regulation establishes the Programme for **agile and rapid defence innovation** (AGILE Programme) for the period from **1 January 2027 to 31 December 2027**.

The Programme aims to support the rapid innovation capacity of SMEs, including innovative start-ups and scaleups, with a view to supporting the rapid delivery of emerging and disruptive products and technologies for defence address the most recent and fast evolving challenges faced by Member States' armed forces, in particular those stemming from Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, with a focus on cost-efficiency.

AGILE will:

- introduce a **more agile and responsive approach** to defence innovation support, tailored to the rapidly evolving needs of the EU's defence sector;
- adopt **simplified methodologies and processes**, including on governance, selection, evaluation and award procedure, and eligibility assessment, to enable faster decision-making and reduce administrative burden (both for applicants and for the Commission). This streamlined approach will facilitate swift support for innovative defence solutions;
- focus on **providing targeted support to single entities**, particularly SMEs, including innovative startups and scaleups, which are often at the forefront of innovation. This approach will not only simplify the application and funding process but also enable more direct and effective support for these key players in the defence innovation ecosystem. More specifically, AGILE will aim to operate with an unprecedented time-to-grant of just **four months** and for technologies to reach defence forces between **1-3 years**. It will support between 20 and 30 projects, providing up to 100% funding for all eligible costs. It will also include a retroactive clause for companies to claim expenses incurred up to three months prior to the closing of the call for applications, to facilitate quick innovation.

Monitoring

The implementation of AGILE will be closely monitored throughout 2027, with a focus on its ability to deliver rapid, high-impact defence innovation. The Commission will carry out a targeted evaluation at the end of the implementation period to assess its effectiveness, efficiency and EU added value. The results and lessons learned could inform thinking on future EU defence innovation programmes within the context of the Commission's proposals for the Multiannual Financial Framework from 2028 onwards.

Budgetary implications

Given the current stage of the MFF 2021-2027, the availability of new funding sources is limited. Consequently, the financing of the Programme relies on internal reallocations within the existing MFF.

The total funding allocated to the Programme from 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2027 is EUR 115 million, which will be financed entirely through redeployment of resources from existing programmes under the Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS). It creates no additional financial burden on Member States or the EU budget, and its impact is confined to a specific segment of defence stakeholders, primarily innovative SMEs, including innovative startups and scaleups.