



Brussels, 19.6.2024  
C(2024) 4365 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 19.6.2024**

**on the financing of the European Defence Fund established by Regulation (EU) 2021/697  
of the European Parliament and of the Council and the adoption of the work  
programme for 2025 - Part 1**

# COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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## on the financing of the European Defence Fund established by Regulation (EU) 2021/697 of the European Parliament and of the Council and the adoption of the work programme for 2025 - Part 1

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/697 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the European Defence Fund and repealing Regulation (EU) 2018/1092<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Article 24 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the European Defence Fund for the year 2025 it is necessary to adopt a financing decision, which constitutes the annual work programme, for 2025. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU.
- (3) Pursuant to Article 62(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme.
- (4) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regards to entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 154(3) of the Financial Regulation. To this end, such entities and persons are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of the Financial Regulation and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of the Financial Regulation before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (5) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (6) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the work programme, it is appropriate to determine the changes, which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p.149.

- (7) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the European Defence Fund Programme Committee, established by Article 34 of Regulation 2021/697.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*  
*The work programme*

The annual financing decision, constituting the first part of the annual work programme for the implementation of the European Defence Fund for 2025 – Part 1, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2025 – Part 1 is set at EUR 390 000 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line 13.0201 - Capability development: EUR 358 000 000;
- (b) budget line 13.0301 - Defence research: EUR 32 000 000.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2025, following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

*Article 3*  
*Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons*

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annex, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in that Annex .

*Article 4*  
*Flexibility clause*

Cumulated changes to the allocations to specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and the objective of the work programme.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 19.6.2024

*For the Commission*  
*Thierry BRETON*  
*Member of the Commission*



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ANNEX

**ANNEX**

*to the*

**Commission Implementing Decision**

**on the financing of the European Defence Fund established by Regulation (EU) 2021/697  
of the European Parliament and of the Council and the adoption of the work  
programme for 2025 - Part 1**

## ANNEX

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The EDF is implemented through annual work programmes from 2021 to 2027.

The adoption of the 2024 EDF work programme - Part 2 is subject of a separate financing decision.

The limited purpose of this 2025 EDF work programme – Part 1 is to bring budget complement to some actions described in detail in the 2024 EDF work programme - Part 2 to enable the launching in 2024 of calls for proposals with indicative amounts higher than the ones possible on the sole basis of 2024 appropriations.

The 2025 EDF work programme – Part 2 will be subject of a separate financing decision to be adopted in due time later in the year with new actions which will then be detailed.

2024 EDF calls for proposals to be reinforced by 2025 appropriations	(Million EUR)		
	Amount earmarked from EDF 2024 budget	Complementary amount under the WP 2025 Part 1	Indicative amount for the actions launched in 2024
<i>Call EDF-2024-DA: Development actions</i>	290.8	288.2	579
<i>Call EDF-2024-DA-EUCI: Development actions (EU classified information)</i>	8.4	69.6	78
<i>Call EDF-2024-RA: Research actions</i>	167.1	31.9	199

In addition, EUR 300 000 are earmarked for payment of independent experts assisting the Commission in the evaluation of EDF proposals (remunerated experts referred to in Article 237 of the Financial Regulation).

The list of *calls for proposals* and associated *Topics* addressed in this 2025 work programme - Part 1 is defined in section 3.

### 2. LEGAL BASIS

All actions that will be funded under this work programme have their legal basis in Regulation (EU) 2021/697 (EDF Regulation). In addition, some of the actions specifically identified in this work programme will contribute to the STEP objectives as defined in Regulation (EU) 2024/795 (STEP Regulation).

### 3. ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED UNDER THE 2025 WORK PROGRAMME - PART 1

This section lists the scope of the *calls for proposals* and associated *topics*, as well as with regard to the implementation of a *framework partnership agreement*, together with their indicative budget, as resulting from a discussion with the EDF programme committee made of representatives from the Member States and associated countries.

Management mode:

As per Article 8(1) of the EDF Regulation and unless otherwise provided for in the present work programme, the actions set out in this work programme shall be implemented in direct management by the Commission.

By way of derogation, in accordance with Article 8(2) of the EDF Regulation, specific actions may, in substantiated cases, be carried out under indirect management by bodies as referred to in point (c) of Article 62(1) of the Financial Regulation, for example in case of complex actions where a project manager has been appointed by Member States, taking into account in particular the complexity of the action and the experience of the proposed body.

The change of management mode set in the present work programme will be assessed after the selection of proposals retained for funding and be subject to the prior assessment of the bodies in accordance with Article 154 of the Financial Regulation in order to ensure the protection of the financial interest of the EU. The responsible Authorising Officer is authorised to conclude a contribution agreement with entities that have satisfactorily passed the priori assessment referred to in Article 154 of the Financial Regulation. If the terms of a contribution agreement cannot be successfully agreed with a pillar assessed entity in due time, the concerned project(s) may be managed in direct management by the Commission.

### 3.1. EDF-2024-DA

- **Targeted type of actions:** Development actions
- **Form of funding:** Actual costs grants following the call for proposals
- **Targeted type of applicants:** Any eligible consortium as defined in Articles 9 and 10(4) of the EDF Regulation
- **Indicative budget for the call:**  
 EUR 290 800 000 has been earmarked from the EDF budget for 2024.  
**A budget complement of EUR 288 200 000 from 2025 appropriations is earmarked under the present 2025 work programme - Part 1.**
- **Number of proposals to be funded:** Several proposals, addressing different topics, may be funded

**Proposals will be called against the following 14 topics**, as described in the 2024 EDF work programme - Part 2, among which 8 topics contribute to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation:

<i>Topic ID</i>	<b>Topic name</b>	<b>Indicative budget<sup>1</sup></b> (Up to EUR million)
<i>EDF-2024-DA-C4ISR-AIMA-STEP</i>	AI-based multifunctional aperture and transceiver	45
<i>EDF-2024-DA-C4ISR-COMS-STEP</i>	Defence multi-dimensional communication standard	25
<i>EDF-2024-DA-C4ISR-SEEU-STEP</i>	Small enhanced European UAS	11
<i>EDF-2024-DA-C4ISR-MALE</i>	Medium altitude long endurance RPAS	100
<i>EDF-2024-DA-CYBER-NGCR-STEP</i>	Next-Generation Cooperative Cyber Range	48
<i>EDF-2024-DA-SPACE-EPW-STEP</i>	Secure waveform for satellite communications	25
<i>EDF-2024-DA-ENERENV-EEMC-STEP</i>	Energy-independent and energy-efficient systems for military camps	40
<i>EDF-2024-DA-AIR-NGRT</i>	Next generation rotorcraft	100

<sup>1</sup> Including 2024 and 2025 appropriations

<i>EDF-2024-DA-GROUND-UGS-STEP</i>	Multipurpose unmanned ground systems	50
<i>EDF-2024-DA-GROUND-BLOS</i>	Beyond the line-of-sight close combat	25
<i>EDF-2024-DA-GROUND-AIFV</i>	Next generation armoured infantry fighting vehicle	25
<i>EDF-2024-DA-NAVAL-FNP</i>	Functional smart system-of-systems under an integral survivability approach for future naval platforms	45
<i>EDF-2024-DA-UWW-AHMS</i>	Autonomous heavy mine sweeping system	30
<i>EDF-2024-DA-SIMTRAIN-STME-STEP</i>	Simulation and training for medical emergencies	10

### Management mode:

- EDF-2024-DA-C4ISR-MALE (Medium altitude long endurance RPAS): Action implemented in indirect management by the Organisation Conjointe de Coopération en Matière d'Armement / Organisation for Joint Armament Co-operation (OCCAR). If the terms of a contribution agreement cannot be successfully agreed in due time, the concerned project may be managed in direct management by the Commission.

### 3.2. EDF-2024-DA-EUCI

- **Targeted type of actions:** Development actions (EU classified information)
- **Form of funding:** Actual costs grants following the call for proposals
- **Targeted type of applicants:** Any eligible consortium as defined in Articles 9 and 10(4) of the EDF Regulation, but, given the highly sensitive nature of information which will be EUCI in the context of this call, each member of the consortium must provide a Facility Security Clearance at SECRET UE/EU SECRET level issued by the national security authorities of the EU Member State or EDF Associated Country of establishment, at the time of submission of the proposal which must be classified at the level of SECRET UE/EU SECRET.

The foreground information generated during the implementation of the proposals selected for EU funding will be entirely or partly classified at the same level, under Commission's responsibility (Commission Decision 2015/444 and implementing rules).

In accordance with abovementioned Commission Decision and national security rules, Personnel Security Clearance at the same level of SECRET UE/EU SECRET is required for personnel involved in the preparation of the proposals and, if selected for EU funding, subsequent implementation of the action.

- **Indicative budget for the call:**

EUR 8 400 000 has been earmarked from the EDF budget for 2024.

**A budget complement of EUR 69 600 000 from 2025 appropriations is earmarked under the present 2025 work programme - Part 1.**

**Proposals will be called against the following topic**, as described in the 2024 EDF work programme - Part 2:

<i>Topic ID</i>	<b>Topic name</b>	<b>Indicative budget<sup>2</sup></b> (Up to EUR million)
<i>EDF-2024-DA-EUCI-AIRDEF-CHGV</i>	Countering hypersonic glide vehicles	78

<sup>2</sup> Including 2024 and 2025 appropriations



- **Indicative number of proposals to be funded:** One proposal is to be funded for this topic. However, depending on the quality of the submitted proposals and the available budget, more than one proposal may ultimately be funded for this topic.

### 3.3. EDF-2024-RA

- **Targeted type of actions:** Research actions
- **Form of funding:** Actual costs grants following the call for proposals
- **Targeted type of applicants:** Any eligible consortium as defined in Articles 9 and 10(4) of the EDF Regulation
- **Indicative budget for the call:**

EUR 167 100 000 has been earmarked from the EDF budget for 2024.

**A budget complement of EUR 31 900 000 from 2025 appropriations is earmarked under the present 2025 work programme - Part 1.**

- **Number of proposals to be funded:** Several proposals, addressing different topics, may be funded

**Proposals will be called against the following 8 topics**, as described in the 2024 EDF work programme - Part 2, among which 3 topics contribute to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation :

<i>Topic ID</i>	<b>Topic name</b>	<b>Indicative budget<sup>3</sup></b> (Up to EUR million)
<i>EDF-2024-RA-SENS-ART</i>	Advanced radar technologies	35
<i>EDF-2024-RA-DIGIT-ASMEP</i>	Automated structural modelling for effect prediction	15
<i>EDF-2024-RA-AIR-AAM</i>	Concept study on advanced air-to-air missiles	35
<i>EDF-2024-RA-AIR-UCCAS-STEP</i>	Unmanned collaborative combat aircraft systems	15
<i>EDF-2024-RA-GROUND-IWAS</i>	Intelligent weaponry and ammunition systems	30
<i>EDF-2024-RA-PROTMOB-FMTC</i>	Future mid-size tactical cargo aircraft	30
<i>EDF-2024-RA-UWW-SACOM-STEP</i>	Secured and adaptive underwater communications for UUSs	24
<i>EDF-2024-RA-SIMTRAIN-BRG-STEP</i>	Methods for bridging reality gaps	15

<sup>3</sup> Including 2024 and 2025 appropriations