



Brussels, 4.2.2026
C(2026) 690 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 4.2.2026

amending Implementing Decisions C(2025) 568 final and C(2025) 8719 final as regards the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) and disruptive technologies for defence

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union¹, and in particular Article 110(1) 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) 2018/1092², and in particular Article 24 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EU) 2025/2653 of the European Parliament and of the Council³ establishes a fourth strategic sector focused on defence technologies in the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP). That fourth strategic sector should ensure that STEP incentives are used to increase Union funding in innovative defence technologies with the aim of responding effectively to current and emerging threats and of contributing to Union competitiveness in line with the STEP objectives. Consequently, the proposals submitted for most of the actions included in Commission Implementing Decision C(2025) 8719 final⁴, and not for just 17 of them as originally envisaged, will be awarded a STEP Seal, provided that they meet the STEP objectives and the minimum requirements indicated in the related specific call conditions.
- (2) The European Defence Fund (EDF) also aims to support actions conducive to the development of disruptive technologies for defence. To better address the specificities of such actions, Regulation (EU) 2025/2653 introduces the possibility of setting dedicated conditions for decisions on such support in the EDF work programmes. It aims to significantly shorten and simplify the decision-making process for supporting these actions, without undermining the principle of excellence. Consequently, the specific call conditions for the non-thematic calls for proposals that aim to develop disruptive technologies for defence should be clarified.

¹ OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>.

² OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 149, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/697/oj>.

³ Regulation (EU) 2025/2653 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 2025, amending Regulations (EU) 2021/694, (EU) 2021/695, (EU) 2021/697, (EU) 2021/1153 and (EU) 2024/795, as regards incentivising defence-related investment in the EU budget to implement the ReArm Europe Plan (OJ L, 2025/2653, 22.12.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/2653/oj>).

⁴ Commission Implementing Decision C(2025) 8719 final of 17 December 2025 on the financing of the European Defence Fund and the adoption of the work programme for 2026 and amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2025) 568 final on the financing of the European Defence Fund and the adoption of the work programme for 2025 - Part 2.

- (3) Pursuant to Article 210(3) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, it should be clarified in Commission Implementing Decisions C(2025) 568 final⁵ and C(2025) 8719 final that the non-dilutive seed vouchers envisaged under the Business accelerator for the EDF can only be awarded by the authorising officer responsible.
- (4) Pursuant to Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, Implementing Decisions C(2025) 568 final and C(2025) 8719 final should therefore be amended.
- (5) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the European Defence Fund Programme Committee,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Annex 1 to Implementing Decision C(2025) 568 final is amended in accordance with Annex I to this Decision.

Article 2

Implementing Decision C(2025) 8719 final is amended as follows:

- (1) Annex 1 is amended in accordance with Annex II to this Decision;
- (2) Annex 3 is amended in accordance with Annex III to this Decision.

Done at Brussels, 4.2.2026

For the Commission
Andrius KUBILIUS
Member of the Commission

⁵ Commission Implementing Decisions C(2025) 568 final of 29 January 2025 on the financing of the European Defence Fund and the adoption of the work programme for 2025 - Part 2 and amending Implementing Decisions C(2023) 2296 final and C(2024) 1702 final as regards financial support to third parties.



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ANNEX 1

ANNEX

to the

Commission Implementing Decision

amending Implementing Decisions C(2025) 568 final and C(2025) 8719 final as regards the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) and disruptive technologies for defence

Annex I
Amendment to Annex 1 to Implementing Decision C(2025) 568 final

In Section 3.4, under the heading ‘Business accelerator for the European Defence Fund’, of Annex 1, the first paragraph is replaced by the following:

‘The EUDIS Business Accelerator is an eight-month programme designed to help innovative European start-ups and scale-ups enter and grow within the defence industrial ecosystem. It aims to strengthen the EU’s defence innovation ecosystem and foster the growth of a competitive and resilient defence industrial base. Funded by the European Commission through a multi-year framework contract, the accelerator provides new defence companies with tailored support, including expert coaching, training, access to specialised testing environments. The Commission also provides non-dilutive seed vouchers. A central component of the programme is a series of on-site boot camps held across Europe, which provide opportunities for direct engagement with defence end users, industry leaders and investors. These boot camps are designed to deepen participants' understanding of operational defence needs, while also enhancing their business development and go-to-market strategies, as well as their readiness for dual-use opportunities. The accelerator also focuses on improving access to risk financing and building strong networks with potential partners and customers. The EUDIS Business Accelerator will support two cohorts annually, each comprising a minimum of 20 companies.’.



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ANNEX 2

ANNEX

to the

Commission Implementing Decision

amending Implementing Decisions C(2025) 568 final and C(2025) 8719 final as regards the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) and disruptive technologies for defence

Annex II
Amendment to Annex 1 to Implementing Decision C(2025) 8719 final

Annex 1 is amended as follows:

(1) in Section 1, the fifth paragraph is replaced by the following:

‘The Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) launched in March 2024 aims to boost investments in critical technologies in Europe: clean technologies, deep and digital technologies, biotechnologies and defence technologies (*). STEP mobilises funding from existing EU programmes to support the development and manufacturing of these critical technologies, while safeguarding and strengthening the respective value chains as well as associated services critical for and specific to the development and manufacturing of the final products. In particular, the EDF benefits from EUR 1.5 billion under STEP for 2024-2027, which will be used to fund R&D of critical technologies in the defence sector.

(*) Regulation (EU) 2025/2653 introduced defence technologies as the fourth investment area under STEP.’;

(2) Section 2 is replaced by the following:

‘2. LEGAL BASIS

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

(3) in Section 3, the heading ‘Calls for proposals’ is amended as follows:

(a) the introductory phrase is replaced by the following:

‘Nine calls for proposals will be launched in 2026, covering 15 of the 16 thematic categories of actions, in addition to one call for proposals not related to thematic categories of actions as set out in Section 3.2.’;

(b) point 3-a) is inserted:

‘3-a) EDF-2026-LS-DIS-RA-SMERO:

• **Targeted type of actions:** Research actions addressing disruptive technologies for defence (dedicated to SMEs and research organisations).

• **Form of funding:** Lump sum 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. Members of the consortium need to be SMEs (as defined in Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC) or research organisations. The coordinator of the consortium needs to be an SME. The budget allocated to research organisations cannot exceed 40% of the total requested grant amount.

• **Indicative budget:** EUR 35 000 000 for one call topic that addresses one category of actions.

• **Specific call conditions:** Proposals will be evaluated against the three award criteria set out in Article 12, points (a), (b) and (f), of the EDF Regulation. As set out in the call documentation, the evaluation process may be carried out in stages. Proposals may require a passing score for each of the award criteria before they can progress to the next stage.’;

(c) in point 8), the following bullet point is added:

‘• **Specific call conditions:** Proposals will be evaluated against the three award criteria set out in Article 12, points (a), (b) and (f), of the EDF Regulation. As set out in the call documentation, the evaluation process may be carried out in stages. Proposals may require a passing score for each of the award criteria before they can progress to the next stage.’;

(4) in Section 3, the heading ‘STEP’ is replaced by the following:

‘STEP:

All call topics included in this work programme, except two (*), support the STEP objectives as set out in the amended STEP Regulation. Proposals that meet the minimum requirements indicated in the specific call conditions will be awarded a STEP Seal (**).

(*) EDF-2026-LS-RA-CHALLENGE-DIGIT-AISAO and EDF-2026-RA-UWW-FUWN.

(**) The STEP Seal is the Sovereignty Seal defined in Regulation (EU) 2024/795.’;

(5) Section 3.1.1.1 is amended as follows:

(a) the heading is replaced by the following:

‘3.1.1.1. EDF-2026-RA-SGA-MCBRN-MCM: Defence medical countermeasures alliance – Research actions’;

(b) the fourth paragraph is replaced by the following:

‘Beyond defence technologies, this topic also contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of biotechnologies.’;

(2) Section 3.1.1.2 is amended as follows:

(a) the heading is replaced by the following:

‘3.1.1.2. EDF-2026-DA-SGA-MCBRN-MCM: Defence medical countermeasures alliance – Development actions’;

(b) the fourth paragraph is replaced by the following:

‘Beyond defence technologies, this topic also contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of biotechnologies.’;

(3) in Section 3.1.1.3, the following paragraph is inserted before the heading ‘Targeted types of activities’:

‘This topic contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of defence technologies.’;

(4) Section 3.1.3.1 is amended as follows:

(a) the heading is replaced by the following:

‘3.1.3.1. EDF-2026-RA-SENS-MSDT: Multidomain sensors demonstrator and test’;

(b) the third paragraph is replaced by the following:

‘Beyond defence technologies, this topic also contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of deep and digital technologies.’;

(5) Section 3.1.3.2 is amended as follows:

- (a) the heading is replaced by the following:
‘3.1.3.2. EDF-2026-DA-SENS-CEW: Enhanced cognitive EW system with intelligent RESM CESM signal analysis’;
- (b) the following paragraph is inserted before the heading ‘Targeted types of activities’:
‘Beyond defence technologies, this topic also contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of deep and digital technologies.’;
- (6) Section 3.1.4.1 is amended as follows:
- (a) the heading is replaced by the following:
‘3.1.4.1. EDF-2026-RA-CYBER-QSTN: Quantum secured tactical networks’;
- (b) the third paragraph is replaced by the following:
‘Beyond defence technologies, this topic also contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of deep and digital technologies.’;
- (7) Section 3.1.5.1 is amended as follows:
- (a) the heading is replaced by the following:
‘3.1.5.1. EDF-2026-DA-SPACE-PRS: Integration of Galileo PRS receivers on weapon systems and NAVWAR operational centres in military C2’;
- (b) the second paragraph is replaced by the following:
‘Beyond defence technologies, this topic also contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of deep and digital technologies.’;
- (8) Section 3.1.6.1 is amended as follows:
- (a) the heading is replaced by the following:
‘3.1.6.1. EDF-2026-LS-RA-CHALLENGE-DIGIT-AISAP: AI-based tactical situational awareness using swarms of small robots and drones – participation in a technological challenge’;
- (b) the third paragraph is replaced by the following:
‘Beyond defence technologies, this topic also contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of deep and digital technologies.’;
- (9) Section 3.1.6.3 is amended as follows:
- (a) the heading is replaced by the following:
‘3.1.6.3. EDF-2026-DA-EXP-DIGIT-MDOC: Military multi-domain operations cloud services’;
- (b) the third paragraph is replaced by the following:
‘Beyond defence technologies, this topic also contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of deep and digital technologies.’;

(10) in Section 3.1.7.1, the following paragraph is inserted before the heading ‘Targeted types of activities’:

‘This topic contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of defence technologies.’;

(11) Section 3.1.7.2 is amended as follows:

(a) the heading is replaced by the following:

‘3.1.7.2. EDF-2026-DA-ENERENV-HPES: High-performance energy systems’;

(b) the third paragraph is replaced by the following:

‘Beyond defence technologies, this topic also contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of clean and resource efficient technologies.’;

(12) Section 3.1.7.3 is amended as follows:

(a) the heading is replaced by the following:

‘3.1.7.3. EDF-2026-DA-ENERENV-AWC: Ammunition Waste Collection and Disposal Unmanned Platform’;

(b) the third paragraph is replaced by the following:

‘Beyond defence technologies, this topic also contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of clean and resource efficient technologies.’;

(13) in Section 3.1.8.1, the heading is replaced by the following:

‘3.1.8.1. EDF-2026-DA-MATCOMP-SMT: Smart and multifunctional textiles’;

(14) in Section 3.1.9.1, the following paragraph is inserted before the heading ‘Targeted types of activities’:

‘This topic contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of defence technologies.’;

(15) in Section 3.1.9.2, the following paragraph is inserted before the heading ‘Targeted types of activities’:

‘This topic contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of defence technologies.’;

(16) in Section 3.1.9.3, the following paragraph is inserted before the heading ‘Targeted types of activities’:

‘This topic contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of defence technologies.’;

(17) in Section 3.1.11.1, the following paragraph is inserted before the heading ‘Targeted types of activities’:

‘This topic contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of defence technologies.’;

(18) in Section 3.1.11.2, the following paragraph is inserted before the heading ‘Targeted types of activities’:

‘This topic contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of defence technologies.’;

- (19) Section 3.1.12.1 is amended as follows:
- (a) the third paragraph is replaced by the following:
- ‘The objective of this topic is therefore to develop a low-cost, turboprop aircraft capable of operating in a variety of operational environments, providing direct air support, ground targeting, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance with combat elements, and air strike coordination and reconnaissance with air traffic control support in a forward position in hostile environments during counter-terrorism missions.’;
- (b) the following paragraph is inserted before the heading ‘Targeted types of activities’:
- ‘This topic contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of defence technologies.’;
- (20) in Section 3.1.12.2, the following paragraph is inserted before the heading ‘Targeted types of activities’:
- ‘This topic contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of defence technologies.’;
- (21) in Section 3.1.13.1, the following paragraph is inserted before the heading ‘Targeted types of activities’:
- ‘This topic contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of defence technologies.’;
- (22) Section 3.1.14.2 is amended as follows:
- (a) the heading is replaced by the following:
- ‘3.1.14.2. EDF-2026-LS-RA-SI-UWW-CSBI: Layered critical seabed infrastructure protection’;
- (b) the second paragraph is replaced by the following:
- ‘Beyond defence technologies, this topic also contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of deep and digital technologies.’;
- (23) Section 3.1.15.1 is amended as follows:
- (a) the heading is replaced by the following:
- ‘3.1.15.1. EDF-2026-RA-SIMTRAIN-MSAI: Modelling & simulation supported AI framework for military decision-making and training’;
- (b) the second paragraph is replaced by the following:
- ‘Beyond defence technologies, this topic also contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of deep and digital technologies.’;
- (24) Section 3.1.16 is amended as follows:
- (a) the first paragraph is replaced by the following:
- ‘This category of actions will be addressed through three calls for proposals in 2026, namely EDF-2026-LS-DIS-RA-SMERO, EDF-2026-LS-DA-DIS and EDF-2026-LS-DIS, with the following three topics:’;
- (b) the following Section 3.1.16.1-a is inserted after the first paragraph:

‘3.1.16.1-a. EDF-2026-LS-DIS-RA-SMERO-NT: Non-thematic research actions by SMEs and research organisations

See Section 3.3.3.’;

(25) Section 3.1.16.1 is amended as follows:

(a) the heading is replaced by the following:

‘3.1.16.1. EDF-2026-LS-DA-DIS-OTHR: New abilities in over-the-horizon sensing’;

(b) the third paragraph is replaced by the following:

‘Beyond defence technologies, this topic also contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of deep and digital technologies.’;

(26) in Section 3.1.16.2, the heading is replaced by the following:

‘3.1.16.2. EDF-2026-LS-DIS-NT: Non-thematic actions targeting disruptive technologies for defence’;

(27) Section 3.2 is amended as follows:

(a) the first paragraph is replaced by the following:

‘One call for proposals not related to the categories of actions will be launched in 2026.’;

(b) Section 3.2.1 is deleted;

(28) Section 3.3.1 is amended as follows:

(a) the heading is replaced by the following:

‘3.3.1. EDF-2026-DA-MATCOMP-SMT: Smart and multifunctional textiles’;

(b) the third paragraph is replaced by the following:

‘Beyond defence technologies, this topic also contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of clean and resource-efficient technologies.’;

(29) in Section 3.3.2, the following paragraph is inserted after the first paragraph:

‘This topic contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of defence technologies.’;

(30) Section 3.3.3 is amended as follows:

(a) the heading is replaced by the following:

‘3.3.3. EDF-2026-LS-DIS-RA-SMERO-NT: Non-thematic research actions by SMEs and research organisations’;

(b) the first and second paragraphs are replaced by the following:

‘The proposals must demonstrate their disruptive impact on defence applications and address innovative technologies and solutions for defence, including those that can improve the readiness, deployability, reliability, safety and sustainability of forces in defence tasks and missions, for example in terms of operations, equipment, infrastructure, energy solutions, surveillance systems or digital solutions.

Proposals must address disruptive knowledge, products and technologies in any area of defence interest (*) reaching at least TRL 4 (**).

(*) As described in the two Guidance Notes on the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) – C(2024) 3148 final of 8.5.2024 and C(2025) 6798 of 23.12.2025 available here: [STEP documents - European Union](#).

(**) The definition of TRLs is shared with other EU programmes, such as Horizon Europe. A reference to this definition is publicly available at <https://horizoneuropencportal.eu/sites/default/files/2022-12/trl-assessment-tool-guide-final.pdf>.’;

(c) the following paragraph is added:

‘Other indication: The expected duration of each funded action is between 12 and 36 months. Projects of other durations may be accepted in duly justified cases.’;

(31) Section 3.3.4 is amended as follows:

(a) the heading is replaced by the following:

‘3.3.4. EDF-2026-LS-DA-SME-NT: Non-thematic development actions by SMEs’;

(b) the second paragraph is replaced by the following:

‘Proposals must address disruptive knowledge, products and technologies in any area of defence interest (*) reaching at least TRL 4 (**).

(*) As described in the two Guidance Notes on the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) – C(2024) 3148 final of 8.5.2024 and C(2025) 6798 of 23.12.2025 available here: [STEP documents - European Union](#).

(**) The definition of TRLs is shared with other EU programmes, such as Horizon Europe. A reference to this definition is publicly available at <https://horizoneuropencportal.eu/sites/default/files/2022-12/trl-assessment-tool-guide-final.pdf>.’;

(32) Section 3.3.5 is amended as follows:

(a) the heading is replaced by the following:

‘3.3.5. EDF-2026-LS-DIS-NT: Non-thematic actions targeting disruptive technologies for defence’;

(b) the second paragraph is replaced by the following:

‘Proposals must address disruptive knowledge, products and technologies in any area of defence interest (*) reaching at least TRL 4 (**).

(*) As described in the two Guidance Notes on the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) – C(2024) 3148 final of 8.5.2024 and C(2025) 6798 of 23.12.2025 available here: [STEP documents - European Union](#).

(**) The definition of TRLs is shared with other EU programmes, such as Horizon Europe. A reference to this definition is publicly available at

<https://horizoneuropencportal.eu/sites/default/files/2022-12/tr1-assessment-tool-guide-final.pdf>.’;

- (33) in Section 3.4.1, subsection ‘Specific provisions’, the following paragraph is inserted before the heading ‘Justification for a direct award’:

‘This topic contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of defence technologies.’;

- (34) in Section 3.5, subsection ‘Business accelerator for the European Defence Fund’ is amended as follows:

- (a) the first and second paragraphs are replaced by the following:

‘The business accelerator aims to improve SMEs, including start-up and scale-up companies’ abilities to achieve sustained commercial growth by strengthening their business development and go-to-market capabilities, improving their access to risk financing, and strengthening their networks to other markets, larger companies, end-users and investors.

Implemented through a multi-year framework contract, the accelerator provides new defence companies with tailored support, including expert coaching, training, access to specialised testing environments, particularly through a series of on-site boot camps held across Europe. The European Commission also provides non-dilutive seed vouchers.’;

- (b) the following paragraph is inserted before the table:

‘The EUDIS Business Accelerator will support two cohorts annually, each comprising a minimum of 20 companies.’;

- (35) in the table in Section 4, the first and second row of the section concerning grants are replaced by the following:

| | | | | | | |
|--|------------|--------|------------|-------|------------|--------|
| ‘*Among which: <i>benefiting the cross-border participation of SMEs</i> | 35 000 000 | 11.24% | 30 000 000 | 4.77% | 65 000 000 | 6.91% |
| <i>supporting disruptive technologies for defence</i> | 53 500 000 | 17.17% | 37 500 000 | 5.96% | 91 000 000 | 9.67%’ |

- (36) Appendix 1 is replaced by the following:

‘APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF CALL TOPICS PER CATEGORY OF ACTIONS

| <i>Categories of actions</i> | Research call topics | Development call topics |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | 14 | 16 |
| <i>1. Defence medical support, CBRN, biotech and human factors</i> | EDF-2026-RA-SGA-MCBRN-MCM | EDF-2026-DA-SGA-MCBRN-MCM |
| | EDF-2026-RA-MCBRN-DST | |
| <i>2. Information superiority</i> | | |
| <i>3. Advanced passive and active sensors</i> | DF-2026-RA-SENS-MSDT | EDF-2026-DA-SENS-CEW |
| <i>4. Cyber</i> | EDF-2026-RA-CYBER-QSTN | |

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 5. Space | | EDF-2026-DA-SPACE-PRS |
| 6. Digital transformation | EDF-2026-LS-RA-CHALLENGE-DIGIT-AISAO | EDF-2026-DA-EXP-DIGIT-MDOC |
| | EDF-2026-LS-RA-CHALLENGE-DIGIT-AISAP | |
| 7. Energy resilience and environmental transition | EDF-2026-LS-RA-SI-ENERENV-NTFE | EDF-2026-DA-ENERENV-HPES |
| | | EDF-2026-DA-ENERENV-AWC |
| 8. Materials and components | | EDF-2026-DA-MATCOMP-SMT |
| 9. Air combat | EDF-2026-RA-AIR-A4R | EDF-2026-DA-AIR-SPS |
| | | EDF-2026-DA-AIR-STFS |
| 10. Air and missile defence | EDF-2026-RA-EUCI-IBA-DS-AIRDEF-CHGV | EDF-2026-DA-ACC-AIRDEF-EATMI |
| 11. Ground combat | | EDF-2026-DA-GROUND-MRL |
| | | EDF-2026-DA-GROUND-MBT |
| 12. Force protection and mobility | EDF-2026-RA-PROTMOB-FMLA | EDF-2026-DA-PROTMOB-DMM |
| 13. Naval combat | | EDF-2026-DA-NAVAL-EMSAS |
| 14. Underwater warfare | EDF-2026-RA-UWW-FUWN | |
| | EDF-2026-LS-RA-SI-UWW-CSBI | |
| 15. Simulation and training | EDF-2026-RA-SIMTRAIN-MSAI | |
| 16. Disruptive technologies | EDF-2026-LS-DIS-RA-SMERO-NT | EDF-2026-LS-DA-DIS-OTHR |
| | EDF-2026-LS-DIS-NT | |
| Out of the scope of categories of actions | | EDF-2026-LS-DA-SME-NT' |

(37) in Appendix 2, the table is amended as follows:

(a) rows '16. Disruptive technologies' and 'Non-thematic calls for innovative and future-oriented defence solutions focused on SMEs' are replaced by the following:

| | | | |
|--|----|----|-----|
| '16. Disruptive technologies | 53 | 39 | 92 |
| Non- thematic calls for innovative and future-oriented defence solutions focused on SMEs | | 30 | 30' |

(b) row 'TOTAL' is replaced by the following:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|-------|-------------|----------------|-------|-------------|------|------|-------------|---------------|
| 'TOTAL | 329.9 | Among which | | 676.1 | Among which | | 1006 | Among which | |
| | | Disruptive | SMEs | | Disruptive | SMEs | | Disruptive | SMEs |
| | | 53 | (35 under DIS) | | 39 | 30 | | 92 | 30 (+35 under |

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| <i>EDF-2026-DA-ACC</i> | EDF-2026-DA-ACC-AIRDEF-EATMI | 100 |
| <i>EDF-2026-LS-DA-DIS</i> | EDF-2026-LS-DA-DIS-OTHR | 29 |
| <i>EDF-2026-LS-DA-SME</i> | EDF-2026-LS-DA-SME-NT | 30 |
| <i>EDF-2026-LS-DIS</i> | EDF-2026-LS-DIS-NT | 27 |
| <i>EDF-2026-RA-SGA</i> | EDF-2026-RA-SGA-MCBRN-MCM | 6.5 |
| <i>EDF-2026-DA-SGA</i> | EDF-2026-DA-SGA-MCBRN-MCM | 18.5' |

(39) Appendix 4 is deleted;

(40) in the table in Appendix 5, rows '16. Disruptive technologies' and 'Undefined categories. including SME calls' are replaced by the following:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------|------|----|----|----|----|--|-------|--------|
| <i>'16. Disruptive technologies</i> | 65.4 | 37.6 | 41 | 40 | 43 | 91 | | 317.1 | 4.98% |
| <i>Undefined categories, including SME calls</i> | 54.1 | 25.2 | 72 | 67 | 67 | 30 | | 315.3 | 4.95%' |



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C(2026) 690 final

ANNEX 3

ANNEX

to the

Commission Implementing Decision

amending Implementing Decisions C(2025) 568 final and C(2025) 8719 final as regards the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) and disruptive technologies for defence

Annex III
Amendment to Annex 3 to Implementing Decision C(2025) 8719 final

Annex 3 is amended as follows:

- (1) Section 2.1.1 is amended as follows:
 - (a) under the heading ‘Specific objective’, the following paragraph is added:

‘This topic contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of defence technologies.’;
 - (b) under the heading ‘Expected impact’, the following indent is added:

‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’;
- (2) Section 2.1.2 is amended as follows:
 - (a) the heading is replaced by the following:

‘2.1.2. EDF-2026-RA-SENS-MSDT: Multidomain sensors demonstrator and test’;
 - (b) under the heading ‘Specific objective’, the second paragraph is replaced by the following:

‘Beyond defence technologies, this call topic also contributes to the STEP objectives, as defined in the STEP Regulation*, in the target investment area of deep and digital technologies.

* Regulation (EU) 2024/795.’;
- (c) under the heading ‘Expected impact’, the fifth indent is replaced by the following:

‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’;
- (3) Section 2.1.3 is amended as follows:
 - (a) the heading is replaced by the following:

‘2.1.3. EDF-2026-RA-CYBER-QSTN: Quantum secured tactical networks’;
 - (b) under the heading ‘Specific objective’, the second paragraph is replaced by the following:

‘Beyond defence technologies, this call topic also contributes to the STEP objectives, as defined in the STEP Regulation*, in the target investment area of deep and digital technologies.

* Regulation (EU) 2024/795.’;
- (c) under the heading ‘Expected impact’, the seventh indent is replaced by the following:

‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’;
- (4) Section 2.1.4 is amended as follows:
 - (a) under the heading ‘Specific objective’, the following paragraph is added:

‘This topic contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of defence technologies.’;

- (b) under the heading ‘Expected impact’, the following indent is added:
‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’;
- (5) Section 2.1.5 is amended as follows:
- (a) under the heading ‘Specific objective’, the following paragraph is added:
‘This topic contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of defence technologies.’;
- (b) under the heading ‘Expected impact’, the following indent is added:
‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’;
- (6) Section 2.1.7 is amended as follows:
- (a) the heading is replaced by the following:
‘2.1.7. EDF-2026-RA-SIMTRAIN-MSAI: Modelling & simulation-supported AI framework for military decision- making and training’;
- (b) under the heading ‘Specific objective’, the sixth paragraph is replaced by the following:
‘Beyond defence technologies, this call topic also contributes to the STEP objectives, as defined in the STEP Regulation*, in the target investment area of deep and digital technologies.

* Regulation (EU) 2024/795.’;

- (c) under the heading ‘Expected impact’, the twelfth indent is replaced by the following:
‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’;
- (7) Section 2.2.1 is amended as follows:
- (a) under the heading ‘Specific objective’, the following paragraph is added:
‘This topic contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of defence technologies.’;
- (b) under the heading ‘Expected impact’, the following indent is added:
‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’;
- (8) Section 2.2.2 is amended as follows:
- (a) the heading is replaced by the following:
‘2.2.2. EDF-2026-LS-RA-SI-UWW-CSBI: Layered critical seabed infrastructure protection’;
- (b) under the heading ‘Specific objective’, the fifth paragraph is replaced by the following:
‘Beyond defence technologies, this call topic also contributes to the STEP objectives, as defined in the STEP Regulation*, in the target investment area of deep and digital technologies.

* Regulation (EU) 2024/795.’;

- (c) under the heading ‘Expected impact’, the following indent is added:
‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’;
- (9) Section 2.3.1 is amended as follows:
- (a) the heading is replaced by the following:
‘2.3.1. EDF-2026-LS-RA-CHALLENGE-DIGIT-AISAP: AI-based tactical situational awareness using swarms of small robots and drones – Participation in a technological challenge’;
- (b) under the heading ‘Specific objective’, the second paragraph is replaced by the following:
‘Beyond defence technologies, this call topic also contributes to the STEP objectives, as defined in the STEP Regulation*, in the target investment area of deep and digital technologies.

* Regulation (EU) 2024/795.’;

- (c) under the heading ‘Expected impact’, the sixth indent is replaced by the following:
‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’;
- (10) Section 2.4 is amended as follows:
- (a) the heading is replaced by the following:
‘2.4. Call EDF-2026-LS-DIS-RA-SMERO’;
- (b) the first bullet point is replaced by the following:
‘• **Targeted type of actions:** Research actions addressing disruptive technologies for defence (dedicated to SMEs and research organisations).’;
- (c) the following bullet point is inserted before the fourth bullet point:
‘• **Specific call conditions:** Proposals will be evaluated against the three award criteria set out in points (a), (b) and (f) of Article 12 of the EDF Regulation. As set out in the call documentation, the evaluation process will be carried out in stages. Proposals will require a passing score for each of the award criteria before they can progress to the next stage.’;
- (11) Section 2.4.1 is amended as follows:
- (a) the heading is replaced by the following:
‘2.4.1. EDF-2026-LS-DIS-RA-SMERO-NT: Non-thematic research actions by SMEs and research organisations’;
- (b) under the heading ‘Scope’, the second paragraph is replaced by the following:
‘Proposals must address disruptive knowledge, products and technologies in any area of defence interest* reaching at least TRL 4**.

* As described in the two Guidance Notes on the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) – C(2024) 3148 final of 8.5.2024 and C(2025) 6798 of 23.12.2025 available here: [STEP documents - European Union](#).

** The definition of TRLs is shared with other EU programmes, such as Horizon Europe. A reference to this definition is publicly available at <https://horizoneuropencppportal.eu/sites/default/files/2022-12/trl-assessment-tool-guide-final.pdf>.’;

- (c) under the heading ‘Expected impact’, the following indent is added:
 - ‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’;
- (12) Section 2.5.1 is amended as follows:
 - (a) the heading is replaced by the following:
 - ‘2.5.1. EDF-2026-DA-SENS-CEW: Enhanced cognitive electronic warfare system with intelligent signal analysis’;
 - (b) under the heading ‘Specific objective’, the third paragraph is replaced by the following:
 - ‘Beyond defence technologies, this call topic also contributes to the STEP objectives, as defined in the STEP Regulation^{*}, in the target investment area of deep and digital technologies.

^{*} Regulation (EU) 2024/795 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 February 2024 establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP).’;

- (c) under the heading ‘Expected impact’, the following indent is added :
 - ‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’;
- (13) Section 2.5.2 is amended as follows:
 - (a) the heading is replaced by the following:
 - ‘2.5.2. EDF-2026-DA-SPACE-PRS: Effective Galileo Public Regulated Service for effectors in Navigation Warfare environment’;
 - (b) under the heading ‘Specific objective’, the third paragraph is replaced by the following:
 - ‘Beyond defence technologies, this call topic also contributes to the STEP objectives, as defined in the STEP Regulation^{*}, in the target investment area of deep and digital technologies.

^{*} Regulation (EU) 2024/795 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 February 2024 establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP).’;

- (c) under the heading ‘Expected impact’, the following indent is added :
 - ‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’;
- (14) Section 2.5.3 is amended as follows:
 - (a) the heading is replaced by the following:
 - ‘2.5.3. EDF-2026-DA-ENERENV-HPES: High-performance energy systems’;
 - (b) under the heading ‘Specific objective’, the sixth paragraph is replaced by the following:

‘Beyond defence technologies, this call topic also contributes to the STEP objectives, as defined in the STEP Regulation^{*}, in the target investment area of deep and digital technologies.

^{*} Regulation (EU) 2024/795 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 February 2024 establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP).’;

(c) under the heading ‘Expected impact’, the following indent is added:

‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’;

(15) Section 2.5.4 is amended as follows:

(a) the heading is replaced by the following:

‘2.5.4. EDF-2026-DA-ENERENV-AWC: Ammunition waste collection and disposal unmanned platform’;

(b) under the heading ‘Specific objective’, the sixth paragraph is replaced by the following:

‘Beyond defence technologies, this call topic also contributes to the STEP objectives, as defined in the STEP Regulation^{*}, in the target investment area of clean and resource-efficient technologies.

^{*} Regulation (EU) 2024/795 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 February 2024 establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP).’;

(c) under the heading ‘Expected impact’, the following indent is added:

‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’;

(16) Section 2.5.5 is amended as follows:

(a) the heading is replaced by the following:

‘2.5.5. EDF-2026-DA-MATCOMP-SMT: Smart and multifunctional textiles’;

(b) under the heading ‘Specific objective’, the third paragraph is replaced by the following:

‘Beyond defence technologies, this call topic also contributes to the STEP objectives, as defined in the STEP Regulation^{*}, in the target investment area of deep and digital technologies.

^{*} Regulation (EU) 2024/795 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 February 2024 establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP).’;

(c) under the heading ‘Expected impacts’, the following indent is added:

‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’;

(17) Section 2.5.6 is amended as follows:

(a) under the heading ‘Specific objective’, the following paragraph is added:

‘This topic contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of defence technologies.’;

- (b) the heading ‘Expected impact’ is amended as follows:
- (i) the fourth indent is replaced by the following:
‘- supporting the competitiveness and excellence of the European industry in the vertical lift domain and the autonomy of EU in the field of military helicopters.’;
 - (ii) the following indent is added:
‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’
- (18) Section 2.5.7 is amended as follows:
- (a) under the heading ‘Specific objective’, the following paragraph is added:
‘This topic contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of defence technologies.’;
 - (b) under the heading ‘Expected impact’, the following indent is added:
‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’
- (19) Section 2.5.8 is amended as follows:
- (a) under the heading ‘Specific objective’, the following paragraph is added:
‘This topic contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of defence technologies.’;
 - (b) under the heading ‘Expected impact’, the following indent is added:
‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’;
- (20) Section 2.5.9 is amended as follows:
- (a) under the heading ‘Specific objective’, the following paragraph is added:
‘This topic contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of defence technologies.’;
 - (b) under the heading ‘Expected impact’, the following indent is added:
‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’;
- (21) Section 2.5.10 is amended as follows:
- (a) under the heading ‘Specific objective’, the following paragraph is added:
‘This topic contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of defence technologies.’;
 - (b) under the heading ‘Expected impact’, the following indent is added:
‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’;
- (22) Section 2.5.11 is amended as follows:
- (a) under the heading ‘Specific objective’, the following paragraph is added:
‘This topic contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of defence technologies.’;
 - (b) under the heading ‘Expected impact’, the following indent is added:
‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’;

- (23) Section 2.6.1 is amended as follows:
- (a) the heading is replaced by the following:
‘2.6.1. EDF-2026-DA-EXP-DIGIT-MDOC: Military multi-domain operations cloud services’;
- (b) under the heading ‘Specific objective’, the sixth paragraph is replaced by the following:
‘Beyond defence technologies, this call topic also contributes to the STEP objectives, as defined in the STEP Regulation^{*}, in the target investment area of deep and digital technologies.
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- ^{*} Regulation (EU) 2024/795 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 February 2024 establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP).’;
- (c) under the heading ‘Expected impact’, the following indent is added:
‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’
- (24) Section 2.7.1 is amended as follows:
- (a) under the heading ‘Specific objective’, the following paragraph is added:
‘This topic contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of defence technologies.’;
- (b) under the heading ‘Expected impact’, the following indent is added:
‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’;
- (25) Section 2.8.1 is amended as follows:
- (a) the heading is replaced by the following:
‘2.8.1. EDF-2026-LS-DA-DIS-OTHR: New abilities in the over-the-horizon sensing’;
- (b) under the heading ‘Specific objective’, the sixth paragraph is replaced by the following:
‘Beyond defence technologies, this call topic also contributes to the STEP objectives, as defined in the STEP Regulation^{*}, in the target investment area of deep and digital technologies.
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- ^{*} Regulation (EU) 2024/795 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 February 2024 establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP)’;
- (c) under the heading ‘Expected impact’, the tenth indent is replaced by the following:
‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’;
- (26) Section 2.9.1 is amended as follows:
- (a) the heading is replaced by the following:
‘2.9.1. EDF-2026-LS-DA-SME-NT: Non-thematic development actions by SMEs’;
- (b) under the heading ‘Scope’, the second paragraph is replaced by the following:

‘Proposals must address disruptive knowledge, products and technologies in any area of defence interest* from TRL 4 and above**.

* As described in the two Guidance Notes on the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) – C(2024) 3148 final of 8.5.2024 and C(2025) 6798 of 23.12.2025 available here: [STEP documents - European Union](#).

** The definition of TRLs is shared with other EU programmes, such as Horizon Europe. A reference to this definition is publicly available at <https://horizoneuropencportal.eu/sites/default/files/2022-12/trl-assessment-tool-guide-final.pdf>.’;

(c) under the heading ‘Expected impact’, the following indent is added:

‘- reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’;

(27) in Section 2.10, the following bullet point is inserted before the fourth bullet point:

‘• **Specific call conditions:** Proposals will be evaluated against the three award criteria set out in Article 12, points (a), (b) and (f), of the EDF Regulation. As set out in the call documentation, the evaluation process will be carried out in stages. Proposals will require a passing score for each of the award criteria before they can progress to the next stage.’;

(28) Section 2.10.1 is amended as follows:

(a) the heading is replaced by the following:

‘2.10.1. EDF-2026-LS-DIS-NT: Non-thematic actions targeting disruptive technologies for defence’;

(b) under the heading ‘Scope’, the first paragraph is replaced by the following:

‘Proposals must address disruptive knowledge, products and technologies in any area of defence interest* from TRL 4 and above** (e.g., Artificial Intelligence, quantum technologies, autonomous systems, robotics, advanced materials).

* As described in the two Guidance Notes on the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) – C(2024) 3148 final of 8.5.2024 and C(2025) 6798 of 23.12.2025 available here: [STEP documents - European Union](#).

** The definition of TRLs is shared with other EU Programmes, such as Horizon Europe. A reference to this definition is publicly available at <https://horizoneuropencportal.eu/sites/default/files/2022-12/trl-assessment-tool-guide-final.pdf>.’;

(c) under the heading ‘Expected Impact’, the following indent is added:

‘- Reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.’;

(29) Section 3.1 is amended as follows:

(a) under the heading ‘Specific objective’, the following paragraph is added:

‘This topic contributes to the STEP objectives as defined in the STEP Regulation in the target investment area of defence technologies.’;

(b) under the heading ‘Expected impact’, the first indent is replaced by the following:

‘- reducing or preventing dependencies on non-EU solutions for hypersonic and counter-hypersonic technologies;’.