



2025/0240(COD)

20.4.2026

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on Security and Defence

for the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on Regional Development and
the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council
establishing the European Fund for economic, social and territorial cohesion,
agriculture and rural, fisheries and maritime, prosperity and security for the
period 2028-2034

(COM(2025)0565) – C10-0179/2025 – 2025/0240(COD))

Rapporteur for opinion: Ana Catarina Mendes

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AMENDMENTS

The Committee on Security and Defence submits the following to the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on Regional Development and the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development as the committees responsible:

Amendment 1

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 7

Text proposed by the Commission

(7) The Union needs to achieve its objectives within a challenging economic, social and demographic context including persisting regional and territorial disparities, the impacts of climate change and challenges related to food security and nature protection, insufficient and uneven progress on the Union's digital transformation, undermining efforts to strengthen the Union's digital sovereignty as well as significant economic and social consequences. That is coupled with a challenging geopolitical and geoeconomic context that has an impact on the Union's defence, security (including economic security) and migration policies. Effectively addressing these challenges requires a more focused, simple and impactful Union budget, **to ensure** the Union added value and clear alignment between Union financial support and Union policy priorities across all policy areas and management modes and to [continue efforts to] simplify rules on Union financial support.

Amendment

(7) The Union needs to achieve its objectives within a challenging economic, social and demographic context including persisting regional and territorial disparities, the impacts of climate change and challenges related to food security and nature protection, insufficient and uneven progress on the Union's digital transformation, undermining efforts to strengthen the Union's digital sovereignty as well as significant economic and social consequences. That is coupled with a challenging geopolitical and geoeconomic context that has an impact on the Union's defence, security (including economic security) and migration policies. Effectively addressing these challenges requires a more focused, simple and impactful Union budget, **that reduces the Union's strategic dependencies, ensures** the Union added value and clear alignment between Union financial support and Union policy priorities across all policy areas and management modes and to [continue efforts to] simplify rules on Union financial support, **while maintaining high standards of democratic accountability and transparency.**

Or. en

Amendment 2

Proposal for a regulation Recital 9

Text proposed by the Commission

(9) The Union budget, implemented together with the Member States, should, in particular, provide for a strengthened, modernised cohesion and inclusive growth policy contributing to reduce regional disparities across the Union, promoting the sustainable development and competitiveness of the Union, its technological sovereignty, its digital transformation, and its security. This policy should be elaborated in partnership with national, regional and local authorities; and should step up on climate and water resilience and preparedness with an overarching objective for Union action to prepare for growing climate risks. The Union budget should continue to support a CAP that is simpler and targeted that has the right balance between incentives, investment and regulation and ensures that farmers have a fair and sufficient income, attractive for young farmers. The Union budget should ensure the predictability necessary for a common policy that provides income support.

Amendment

(9) The Union budget, implemented together with the Member States, should, in particular, provide for a strengthened, modernised cohesion and inclusive growth policy contributing to reduce regional disparities across the Union, promoting the sustainable development and competitiveness of the Union, its technological sovereignty, its digital transformation, ***its strategic autonomy*** and its security ***and defence***. This policy should be elaborated in partnership with national, regional and local authorities; and should step up on climate and water resilience and preparedness with an overarching objective for Union action to prepare for growing climate risks. The Union budget should continue to support a CAP that is simpler and targeted that has the right balance between incentives, investment and regulation and ensures that farmers have a fair and sufficient income, attractive for young farmers. The Union budget should ensure the predictability necessary for a common policy that provides income support.

Or. en

Amendment 3

Proposal for a regulation Recital 10

Text proposed by the Commission

(10) It is in this context key to continue efforts to simplify rules and improve current delivery models to maximise the effectiveness and responsiveness of Union

Amendment

(10) It is in this context key to continue efforts to simplify rules and improve current delivery models to maximise the effectiveness and responsiveness of Union

spending and bring about simplification to Member States, regional and local authorities and beneficiaries. The funds allocated to Member States should therefore incorporate a stronger focus on results, simplification and maximising public investment with high Union added value, including using public procurement strategically to promote key policy objectives, and leveraging private capital. Accordingly, the Union should set the objectives and types of interventions while greater responsibility and accountability for meeting those objectives should be borne by the Member States. As a consequence, there is a need to ensure greater subsidiarity and flexibility in order to take better account of the local and regional conditions and needs.

spending and bring about simplification to Member States, regional and local authorities and beneficiaries. The funds allocated to Member States should therefore incorporate a stronger focus on results, simplification and maximising public investment with high Union added value, including using public procurement strategically to promote key policy objectives, and leveraging private capital. Accordingly, the Union should set the objectives and types of interventions while greater responsibility and accountability for meeting those objectives should be borne by the Member States. As a consequence, there is a need to ensure greater subsidiarity and flexibility in order to take better account of the local and regional conditions and needs. ***However, fragmentation of efforts and wasteful duplication of investments due to lack of coordination amongst national plans should be avoided.***

Or. en

Amendment 4

Proposal for a regulation

Recital 12

Text proposed by the Commission

(12) The Eastern border regions of the EU face the dual challenge of enhancing security while supporting their economies, businesses and people that have been negatively impacted as a direct or indirect consequence of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The National and Regional Partnership Plans will provide comprehensive and coherent support to the Member States and regions facing those challenges.

Amendment

(12) The Eastern border regions of the EU face the dual challenge of enhancing security ***and defence*** while supporting their economies, businesses and people that have been negatively impacted as a direct or indirect consequence of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The National and Regional Partnership Plans will provide comprehensive and coherent support to the Member States and regions facing those challenges.

Or. en

Amendment 5

Proposal for a regulation Recital 14

Text proposed by the Commission

(14) The support to Member States, regions and local communities in delivering on Union policy priorities and maximising efficiency maximisation of Union funding should be achieved, through the support for measures of high Union relevance linked to the most pressing challenges affecting Europe. Those challenges should be addressed by pursuing five high level objectives: Europe's sustainable prosperity across all regions; Europe's defence capabilities and security; supporting people, strengthening Europe's societies and Europe's social model; sustaining Europe's quality of life; protecting and strengthening democracy, rule of law and upholding Union values.

Amendment

(14) The support to Member States, regions and local communities in delivering on Union policy priorities and maximising efficiency maximisation of Union funding should be achieved, through the support for measures of high Union relevance linked to the most pressing challenges affecting Europe. Those challenges should be addressed by pursuing five high level objectives: Europe's sustainable prosperity across all regions; Europe's defence capabilities, **resilience** and security; supporting people, strengthening Europe's societies and Europe's social model; sustaining Europe's quality of life; protecting and strengthening democracy, rule of law and upholding Union values.

Or. en

Amendment 6

Proposal for a regulation Recital 16

Text proposed by the Commission

(16) In the area of the Union's defence capabilities and security, measures should reinforce the Union's defence industrial base and military mobility and strengthen the Unions' preparedness, threat detection, critical energy and transport infrastructure protection and resilience and crisis response, including by strengthening cybersecurity. This should include measures to develop the dual use TEN-T

Amendment

(16) In the area of the Union's defence capabilities and security, measures should reinforce the Union's defence industrial base and military mobility and strengthen the Unions' preparedness, threat detection, critical energy and transport infrastructure protection and resilience and crisis response, including by strengthening cybersecurity. This should include measures to develop the dual use TEN-T

infrastructure in order to allow for largescale movements of troops and heavy equipment and material at short notice. **Measures should also aim to ensure high level of security in the Union, including integration measures that are consistent with the objectives set out in Regulation (EU) [...] concerning Union support for asylum including subsidiary protection, temporary protection, migration and integration, Regulation (EU) [...] concerning Union support for European [integrated] border management, including functioning of the Schengen area and for European visa policy, and Regulation (EU) [...] Union support for internal security.**

infrastructure in order to allow for largescale movements of troops and heavy equipment and material at short notice. **Funding in this area should strengthen the EU's strategic autonomy and reduce the Union's strategic dependencies in complementarity with, and reinforcing, funding available under Regulations (EU) [xx - ECF], (EU) [xx - Horizon Europe] and (EU) [xx - CEF].**

Or. en

Justification

The second half of the original recital is moved to the new recital 16 b.

Amendment 7

Proposal for a regulation Recital 16 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(16a) Financial support for NRP Plans should be implemented by Member States in a manner that is consistent with the defence capability priorities commonly agreed to by the Member States within the framework of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), the Member States' cooperation within the framework of the Permanent Structured Cooperation established by Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/2315, the European Defence Agency's (EDA) initiatives and projects, including the collaborative opportunities identified in the framework of the Coordinated Annual

Review on Defence (CARD), the priority capability areas identified in the White Paper for European Defence, the guidance provided by the [Defence Industrial Advisory Board] established under the European Competitiveness Fund, the objectives of the Strategic Compass for security and defence and the Union's civil and military assistance to Ukraine. When implementing this Regulation, the Member States should duly take into account the relevant activities carried out by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), in particular the NATO capability targets, and by other partners where such activities serve the Union's security and defence interests.

Or. en

Amendment 8

Proposal for a regulation Recital 16 b (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(16b) Measures should also aim to ensure high level of security in the Union, including integration measures that are consistent with the objectives set out in Regulation (EU) [...] concerning Union support for asylum including subsidiary protection, temporary protection, migration and integration, Regulation (EU) [...] concerning Union support for European [integrated] border management, including functioning of the Schengen area and for European visa policy, Regulation (EU) [...] Union support for internal security, and by enhancing preparedness and emergency response in line with the objectives set out in Regulation (EU) [xx - UCPM].

Or. en

Amendment 9

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point b – point i

Text proposed by the Commission

(i) reinforcing the Union's defence industrial base **and military mobility, in particular by developing dual-use TEN-T infrastructure;**

Amendment

(i) reinforcing the Union's defence industrial base, in particular **to increase capacity, autonomy and security of supply to sustain production of priority capabilities;**

Or. en

Justification

The part on military mobility is moved to a new point.

Amendment 10

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point b – point ii

Text proposed by the Commission

(ii) **strengthening** the Union's **preparedness to crises and disasters by mainstreaming the principle of 'preparedness by design';**

Amendment

(ii) **reinforcing** the Union's **military mobility, in particular by developing dual-use TEN-T infrastructure;**

Or. en

Justification

The part on preparedness was moved to a new point.

Amendment 11

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point b – point iii

Text proposed by the Commission

(iii) *strengthening the Union’s security by improving threat detection, prevention and response threat detection capabilities, including by strengthening energy and transport critical infrastructure and cybersecurity;*

Amendment

(iii) *supporting defence-related preparedness and resilience measures directly linked to defence readiness, including defence-relevant critical infrastructure, secure communications, cybersecurity and defence supply chains;*

Or. en

Justification

The part on internal security was moved to a different specific objective.

Amendment 12

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point b – subparagraph 2 – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

in a manner fully consistent with the objectives set out:

Amendment

in a manner fully consistent with the objectives *and the eligibility criteria, mutatis mutandis*, set out:

Or. en

Amendment 13

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point b – subparagraph 2 – indent 3 a

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

– *in Regulation (EU) [...] on establishing the European Competitiveness Fund [xx - ECF].*

Or. en

Amendment 14

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point b – subparagraph 2 – indent 3 b

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

- *in Regulation (EU) [...] establishing the Connecting Europe Facility for the period 2028-2034, amending Regulation (EU) 2024/1679 and repealing Regulation (EU) 2021/1153.*

Or. en

Amendment 15

Proposal for a regulation

Article 3 – paragraph 1 – point b a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ba) To strengthen the Union’s internal security and civil preparedness across all regions by:

(i) strengthening the Union’s preparedness to crises and disasters by mainstreaming the principle of ‘preparedness by design’;

(ii) strengthening the Union’s security by improving threat detection, prevention and response capabilities, including by strengthening energy and transport critical infrastructure and cybersecurity;

In a manner fully consistent with the objectives set out:

– *in Regulation (EU) [...] on the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and Union support for health emergency preparedness and response, and repealing Decision No 1313/2013/EU (Union Civil Protection Mechanism);*

– *in Regulation (EU) [...] establishing the Union support for asylum migration and integration for the period from 1 January 2028 to 31 December*

2034;

– *in Regulation (EU) [...] establishing the Union support for European integrated border management and European visa policy for the period from 1 January 2028 to 31 December 2034;*

– *in Regulation (EU) [...] establishing the Union support for internal security for the period from 1 January 2028 to 31 December 2034.*

Or. en

Justification

The language is mostly derived from original subpoints (ii) and (iii) of specific objective (b).

Amendment 16

Proposal for a regulation

Article 7 – paragraph 5 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

5a. *For measures falling under the objective referred to in Article 3, paragraph 1, point (b)(i) and (ii), eligibility rules shall be equivalent to the principles laid down in Regulations [xx - ECF] and [xx-CEF] respectively.*

Or. en

Amendment 17

Proposal for a regulation

Article 22 – paragraph 2 – point b – introductory part

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(b) effectively address all or a significant subset of challenges identified:

(b) effectively address all or a significant subset of challenges **and priorities** identified:

Or. en

Amendment 18

Proposal for a regulation

Article 22 – paragraph 2 – point b – point iv (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(iv) in relevant Council or Commission documents, plans and strategies and in European Council conclusions related to defence, notably the defence capability priorities commonly agreed to by the Member States in the context of the Capability Development Plan, in the White Paper for European Defence and in the Roadmap for European Defence Readiness 2030, in the Strategic Compass for security and defence, with the benchmarks set out in the European Defence Industrial Strategy (EDIS) and in the guidance provided by the Defence Industrial Advisory Board under Regulation(EU) [xx - ECF];

Or. en

Amendment 19

Proposal for a regulation

Article 22 – paragraph 2 – point b – subparagraph 2 – point c a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

(ca) where the NRP Plan includes measures under the specific objective referred to in Article 3, paragraph 1, points (b)(i) (ii) and (iii), the Member State shall demonstrate its consistency with the objectives, eligibility conditions and governance arrangements of the relevant Union sectoral instruments, in particular Regulations (EU) [xx - ECF], [xx - CEF], as well as, where relevant, with the Capability Development Plan, the Coordinated Annual Review on Defence

(CARD) and the relevant governance and programming orientations established under Union defence industrial legislation.

Or. en

Amendment 20

Proposal for a regulation Article 28 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, participation of third countries shall be excluded for measures contributing to the specific objectives set out in Article 3, points (d)(i), (ii) and (iii).

Amendment

3. By way of derogation from paragraph 1, participation of third countries shall be excluded for measures contributing to the specific objectives set out in Article 3, ***paragraph 1***, points ***(b)(i), (ii) and*** (d)(i), (ii) and (iii).

Or. en

Amendment 21

Proposal for a regulation Article 30 – paragraph 3

Text proposed by the Commission

3. Award procedures affecting security or public order, in particular concerning strategic assets and interests of the Union or its Member States, shall be restricted in accordance with Article 136 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.

Amendment

3. Award procedures affecting security, ***defence*** or public order, in particular concerning strategic assets and interests of the Union or its Member States, shall be restricted in accordance with Article 136 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.

Or. en

Amendment 22

Proposal for a regulation Article 30 – paragraph 3 a (new)

Text proposed by the Commission

Amendment

3a. The eligibility criteria for actions under Article 3, paragraph 1 (b) (i), and (ii), shall mirror, mutatis mutandis, the eligibility criteria defined under Regulations (EU) [xx -ECF] and [xx -CEF] as appropriate.

Or. en