

# EVOLUTION OF DEFENCE EXPENDITURE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION'S BUDGET

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**Abstract:** *The article presents the main features of the new EU's approach toward structuring the multiannual financial framework (MFF) and particularly the part related to the defence which comprises two major elements: European defence fund and Military mobility. Within the next MFF, the European Commission presented a legislative proposal on a European Defence Fund, including a budget allocation of €13 billion. The proposal aims to streamline and simplify the current legislation by integrating the Preparatory Action on Defence Research and the European Defence Industrial Development Programme into a single fund. The main aims of the fund are to foster the competitiveness and innovativeness of European defence and to contribute to the EU's strategic autonomy. Another issue is the need of rapid move of military personnel and equipment across the territory of the EU. The existing strategic weakness of European defence cooperation is being addressed by means of action on military mobility meant to ensure the seamless movement of military equipment across the EU by reducing physical, legal and regulatory obstacles, which will be supported by €6.5 billion within the next MFF.*

**Key words:** *multiannual financial framework, headings, budget, financing, defence expenditure, preparatory actions, defence research, capabilities, defence industrial development programme, defence fund, military mobility.*