



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Director-General

Brussels,
NT/pb/grow.ddg3.i.4(2017)5942679

Mr Jerzy Buzek
Chair of the Committee on Industry,
Research and Energy
European Parliament
Paul-Henri Spaak building
08B046
60, rue Wiertz
B-1047 Bruxelles

Subject: COM (2017)294- European Defence Industrial Development Programme; summary on the public feedback received after the adoption of the proposal

Dear Mr. Buzek,

On 7 June 2017 the Commission adopted a proposal for a Regulation establishing the European Defence Industrial Development Programme aimed at supporting the competitiveness and innovative capacity of the EU defence industry.

As part of its better regulation agenda, legislative proposals which are put forward to the EU Parliament and Council are open for public feedback.

This letter summarises the feedback received through the Commission's 'Have your say' webpage between 7 June 2017 and 7 August 2017.

Overall 4071 replies have been received through this webpage. Contributions mainly originated from EU citizens (4016); non-governmental organisations (16) and non-EU citizens (15). As regards geographical distribution, the majority of the responses came from Germany (2692), followed by the United Kingdom (517); Spain (320); Austria (155); the Netherlands (115); Belgium (55); Ireland (49); Italy (27); Sweden (24); and France (22). The remaining 95 comments came from other EU and non-EU countries. Contributions included the views of NGOs, notably Campaign against Arms Trade; Vredesactie; Stop Wapenhandel, European Network against Arms Trade – ENAAT; Movemos Europa; and Scientists for Global Responsibility (SGR).

On substance, the feedback received expressed limited support to the initiative. The general view is that military solutions are not the best to support a global peaceful economic growth. Six elements were often raised to support this view:

- Often the argument was made that the "proposal goes against the EU's founders ideal of a peaceful, united and prosperous Europe to prevent new arms race and aiming at cooperation, strengthening cohesion and solidarity".
- Many comments underlined that "the EU has a vital role to play in addressing many global challenges, but that these problems cannot be solved by more money in arms, as this means that less money will be given to the challenges to peaceful and sustainable manner".
- According to the input, weapons and military expenditure do not lead to greater security and stability and none of the major conflicts where military intervention has taken place have been resolved.
- Many commented that "the EU should instead invest more money to support peaceful solutions and seek for innovative approaches to address the root causes of conflicts and migration. Money should be better spent on humanitarian aid programmes to fight poverty or the consequences of climate change and sustainable nature".
- The inputs often raised the following point: "there is no need to subsidise the financially strong defence industry, which is exporting arms to dictatorial regimes in power and violent groups in many African countries, which leads to displaced persons and refugees".
- Replies also stressed that "there are better ways to create jobs and growth without negative effects occurring such as the production of weapons". Respondents commented that it is much better to invest more taxpayers' money into the development of renewable energies, education and affordable housing.

The replies can be viewed on the link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/com-2017-294_en.

Yours sincerely,



Lowri Evans

Copy: Ambassador of the Council Presidency
 Chairs of other concerned EP Committees (IMCO, BUDG, SEDE)
 Chair of the FOP