

18 November 2025

EAPB Statement on EC Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030

EAPB takes note of the [EC Roadmap for Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030](#) published on 16 October 2025. EAPB members welcome the efforts of the EU to boost defence cooperation on a European scale in R&D, infrastructure and industrial capacity building, among other areas. Years of underinvestment in defence resulted into both capability and industrial gaps within the EU. We also welcome the enhanced role of the EIB to support defence. EAPB highly welcomes the first clarifications made by the [EC notice on defence](#) regarding the compatibility of defence investments with the ESG framework as well as the [work of the European Parliament](#) to provide further clarity. We also welcome the agreement reached on the Mini-Omnibus Defence package. These measures send an important signal to investors.

Throughout Russia's illegal war, EAPB members have shielded affected municipalities, municipal energy companies and SMEs from the consequences of the war. Depending on the scope of their public mandate and the individual banks' policy, some promotional banks have also provided support to the defence sector, notably as a response to the attack against Ukraine by Russia. Their support ranges from funding SMEs defence industry supply chains, dual-use infrastructures, export funding of fighter jets to the funding of armed forces. Through targeted products they can also help mobilise private money to fund defence projects.

External pressure for swift economies of scale in financing European defence spending strengthens the argument for utilizing financial institutions trusted by governments that are capable of both the EU's and national defence initiatives. EAPB members possess in-depth knowledge of regional industrial ecosystems, enabling more tailored funding solutions for local companies and research institutions and are highly experienced providers of infrastructure financing. They also facilitate faster and more efficient allocation of funds. The implementing partners of InvestEU, providing an EU guarantee to the investment expositions of EAPB members, are well positioned to implement defence projects efficiently, as they leverage this experience with EU funded programs and encourage the financial participation of the private sector. Thus, they can play a key role in new EU funding programmes for the defence sector when part of their public mandates. The EAPB is happy to liaise between the EU institutions and those members who are engaged in this area as part of their mandate and policies. [Some promotional banks](#) have already declared their willingness to deepen cooperation and seek new opportunities for joint action.

*The European Association of Public Banks (EAPB) gathers over 30 member organisations which include promotional banks such as national or regional public development banks and local funding agencies, public financial institutions, associations of public banks and banks with similar interests from 17 European Member States and countries, representing directly and indirectly the interests of over 90 financial institutions towards the EU and other European stakeholders. **EU Transparency Register: 8754829960-32***