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General Secretariat

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Interinstitutional files:
2025/0555 (COD)

Brussels, 24 April 2026

WK 5918/2026 INIT

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MEETING DOCUMENT

From:	Presidency
To:	Ad Hoc Working Party on the Multiannual Financial Framework (AHWP MFF) - European Competitiveness Fund
N° prev. doc.:	ST 8383/26
Subject:	Regulation on establishing the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF), including the specific programme for defence research and innovation activities, repealing Regulations (EU) 2021/522, (EU) 2021/694, (EU) 2021/697, (EU) 2021/783, and amending Regulations (EU) 2021/696, (EU) 2023/588, (EU) [EDIP] - Explanatory note: Revised Presidency text on Chapter VII section 2 Ad hoc Working Party meeting on 4 May 2026

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PRESIDENCY NOTE

Explanatory note of the revised text - doc. 8383/26

Chapter VII: Support for Resilience and Security, Defence Industry and Space

Recitals	Explanations
(36)	• Added language inspired by Art. 42(2) TEU, upon request by Member States.
(36a)	• Recital added to elaborate on the association of third countries.
(40)	• Following requests from Member States, 'projects contributing to regional security resilience' was added.
Articles	**Explanations**
2	• Following comments from Member States, a definition of 'life cycle of a defence product' was added, derived from the EDIP Regulation.
40	• Change of 'Section' to 'Chapter' to reflect that the provision applies to the whole Chapter, including the section on defence industry.
44	• **Para.1(ca):** Changes made to reflect the changes made to the title of Article 47a. • **Para. 3a:** A reference to the 'defence readiness agenda' was added as a guideline for pursuing the activities under this section.

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45	• **Para.5**: Following requests by Member States, the mandatory "unanimity" requirement for the possible involvement of EU institutions, bodies or agencies was deleted.
47a	• **Title** : Following requests from Member States, the wording of the title was aligned with recent Commission/HR Communications. • **Para.1(c):** Following requests from Member States, a new point (c) was added, reintroducing a reference to the strengthening of administrative capacities related to the public procurement of defence products. • **Para.4:** Following requests from Member States, an addition was made to ensure that the information provided to the "catalogue" is afforded adequate protection.
48	• **Para.4a:** Editorial amendments to improve clarity of the text. • **Para.4b:** New paragraph 4b, containing text moved from Article 54(2)(g) which is linked to and should follow paragraph 4a of this Article 48. Amendments made to clarify that this paragraph refers to "procurement-related information" and not "access rights".
49	• **Para.1(b):** Amendments made in response to comments by Member States and for legal certainty, to clarify that this Article is about "capabilities" and not infrastructure.
49a	• **Para.1(chapeau):** Amendments made to improve the readability of the text and to align with other Articles. • **Para.1(a):** Amendments were made to include activity in line with ongoing EUDIS activities. • **Para.1(e):** Additions were made to ensure a holistic approach to promoting innovative products and technologies. • **Para.1(f):** New point (f) to allow for possible support measures.

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50	• **Para.1:** Proposed deletions of redundant elements and clarifications for legal certainty. • **Para.2(a):** Following comments from Member States, and in order to ensure legal clarity, a reference to the CFSP was added, using agreed language. • **Para.2(c):** Clarification added for reasons of legal accuracy
51	• **Para.3:** Addition made to the text to provide a basis for future AGILE actions. • **Para.15:** Amendments were made to extend the exception to the consortium requirement to actions supporting disruptive technologies for defence. • **Para.16:** Following comments from Member States, it was clarified that the availability of products is for Member States.
53	• **Para.1:** Following comments from Member States, a reference to "defence readiness throughout the Union" was reintroduced.
53a	• New Article introduced on double comitology, following requests from MS.
54	• **Para.1a:** Following clarifications by COM on their original proposal, amendments were made to distinguish rules applicable to the award of grants and pre-commercial procurement. • **Para.2(g):** This point was moved up to Article 48 for coherence purposes.