



JEDI

THE EUROPEAN ARPA

SUMMARY

MAKE EUROPEAN DEFENSE GREAT

Memo for the Leaders – March 2025

MAKE EUROPEAN DEFENSE GREAT

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This is the public version of this Briefing, where execution elements and technological options of Priorities A, B, C, D have been removed for sensitivity reasons.

(much) more money is critical – but this will **NOT** protect Europeans if we are not more realistic, strategic in our joint goals, massively simplify & act boldly

This Memo is a plan in 32 points & a call for action with 4 priorities:

- A. End illusions** – Acknowledge Europe's defense weaknesses to make the right decisions → 11 concrete proposals
- B.** 99% of discussions are about the % of defense spending. We need to **FIRST massively reduce complexity** and bureaucracy BEFORE the (necessary) increase in budgets → 11 concrete proposals
- C. RADICAL reforms** – Industry must become a driver of rearmament, economic power, and technological leadership, with procurement as a strategic tool. Speed need to be central → 10 concrete proposals
- D. Shape the future through technology leaps** – A 10% shift in R&D funding is needed to avoid another decade of strategic surprise. JEDI, forerunner of a European ARPA, is ready & an integral part of the solution → 14 tech priorities

SUMMARY

Four Priorities & 32 action points to Make European Defense Great:

A. End illusions – Acknowledge Europe's defense weaknesses to make the right decisions

→ 11 proposals

- ⇒ Europe is not a global military power despite economic strength.
- ⇒ Weapons procurement remains inefficient.
- ⇒ Nuclear deterrence alone is insufficient.

B. Massively reduce complexity and bureaucracy BEFORE the (necessary) increase in budgets (Europe including the UK represents 45% of the US budget, but only 10% of capacity)

→ 11 proposals

- ⇒ Streamline procurement and transfer processes.
- ⇒ Establish strategic foresight to anticipate threats.
- ⇒ Simplify recruitment to attract top tech talent.

C. RADICAL reforms – Industry must become a driver of rearmament, economic power, and technological leadership, with procurement as a strategic tool

→ 10 proposals

- ⇒ Redefine defense planning based on strategic needs, not industrial preferences.
- ⇒ Launch a European Security Council with key partners.
- ⇒ Differentiate procurement speeds: 6 years for high-end systems, 6 months for mass production, 6 weeks for expendables.

D. Shape the future through technology leaps – A 10% shift in R&D funding is needed to avoid another decade of underperformance. JEDI, forerunner of a European ARPA, is ready & an integral part of the solution

→ 14 tech priorities

Disclosure appendix

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About the Joint European Disruptive Initiative

The Joint European Disruptive Initiative (JEDI) is the European advanced research projects initiative (ARPA). JEDI is crafting and funding [Moonshot R&D Programs](#) to push the frontiers of science & innovation, with a radical new method based on purpose-driven research, speed, full focus on excellence, interdisciplinarity, and bold risk-taking. JEDI's goal is to ensure Europe remains a leader in the current technological and scientific acceleration. Powered by more than 6.500 technology and scientific leaders from academia, industry and deeptech startups in 29 countries, JEDI is fully independent and financed by engaged foundations, companies, individuals and public institutions.

JEDI expects Member States & EU to turn their often-stated wish for a European ARPA into real action, not by another bureaucratic construct but by devoting 1-10% of their research budgets to bold, agile & independent initiatives like JEDI, to de-bureaucratize research funding and give Europe every chance of remaining a technological leader. JEDI will not wait for administrations to change and is building a large civil society movement around this cause.

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