

ITRE Opinion on EFSI extension should call against duplication of funding on defence to the detriment of other priorities

Dear parliamentarian,

the ITRE committee is about to vote its Opinion on the *Extension of the Duration of the EFSI & Technical Enhancements of that Fund and the EIAH* (Rapporteur Eva Kaili on EC legislative proposal COM/2016/0597 final - 2016/0276 (COD)).

Stop Wapenhandel calls you to REJECT AM 144 relating to **Article 9, paragraph 2, point i a (new)**, which proposes "*(ia) support for EU initiatives in the defence sector, in particular via: i) R&D at the EU level, ii) development of the EU's defence capabilities and iii) SMEs and mid-caps in the field of defence*"

We urge you to vote against this amendment for the following reasons :

- both the Horizon 2020 rules and the EIB guidelines exclude direct funding to defence projects; under those rules the defence sector is already eligible for security projects provided that the EU funding contribute to the civilian application only; thus under the current situation amendment 144 is meaningless
- several proposals are already on the table to fund R&D in the defence research and the development of EU defence capability, in particular the on-going Preparatory Action on defence research and the proposal of an EU Defence Fund in the European Defence Action Plan ; amendment 144 is therefore duplicating existing proposals and would make coherence of potential EU funding in this field even more difficult
- the Budget committee adopted recently its Guidelines for the 2018 EU budget, in which it calls for "fresh resources" to cover new funding in the field of defence research, "as it is a new political initiative with a significant impact on the EU budget"; amendment 144 would then contradict the position of the Budget Committee and weaken the EP position to avoid that important amounts of the EU budget be diverted for military-related projects, to the detriment of other crucial -civilian- sectors such as climate change and energy efficiency, cultural and creative sector or reducing inequalities and poverty

We call you instead to ensure that any mention of the defence sector in the ITRE Opinion should be in line with the Horizon2020 and the EIB guidelines limiting EU funding for the defence sector to civilian applications.

I thank you for your attention and remains at your disposal for any further discussion

Yours sincerely
Wendela de Vries