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## **EU NEARS DEAL ON DEFENCE INDUSTRY PLAN AFTER FOREIGN ARMS STALEMATE BROKEN**

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EU countries are set to approve the proposed European Defence Industrial Plan (EDIP) on Wednesday after striking a deal to end the year-long deadlock over whether non-European firms would be able to access funds from the scheme, multiple sources told Euractiv.

A compromise text seen by Euractiv will give certain ammunition and missile manufacturers from outside the EU exemptions from the otherwise strict eligibility rules.

The Commission pitched the programme last spring as a way to expand and revitalise the European military industrial base by injecting cash into joint military procurement deals and the production of defence equipment.

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