

Greece's Defense Spending: A 12-Year Strategy for Transformation

Announced 2 April 2025

Executive Summary:

Greece has unveiled a comprehensive 12-year defense strategy, committing €25 billion to the modernization of its armed forces. This ambitious initiative prioritizes a strong partnership with the United States and focuses on integrating cutting-edge technologies, including unmanned vehicles, artificial intelligence, and advanced cyber capabilities. A central element of the strategy is the development of the "Achilles Shield," a sophisticated multi-layered air defense system. This strategic move is primarily motivated by the need to counter regional threats, particularly from Turkey, and aligns with the European Union's broader aspirations for strategic autonomy. By pursuing these modernization efforts and fostering closer ties with the United States through acquisitions and joint initiatives, Greece aims to significantly strengthen its defense capabilities and enhance its interoperability with key allies.

1. Introduction: The Strategic Imperative Behind Greece's Defense Transformation:

Greece has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to its national defense, historically allocating a substantial portion of its budget to military expenditure. This dedication has often resulted in the nation exceeding NATO's target of spending 2% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on defense, a practice largely attributed to the enduring complexities and tensions in its relationship with neighboring Turkey. This long-standing emphasis on military readiness underscores the deep-seated security concerns that have shaped Greek national policy for decades. The announcement of this new, extensive 12-year defense strategy arrives at a critical juncture in global affairs. Europe is currently navigating a period marked by significant uncertainty, highlighted by Russia's ongoing aggression in Ukraine and a perceived potential shift in the United States' traditional security commitments to the continent. In response to these evolving challenges, numerous European nations are undertaking a reassessment of their defense postures and initiating increases in their military spending.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, in his address to the Hellenic Parliament, emphasized the profound importance of this "most drastic transformation" for the nation's ability to protect its sovereignty and uphold its national dignity. He invoked the widely recognized sentiment, "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance," often attributed to former US President Thomas Jefferson, to underscore the fundamental connection between national security and societal progress. A central and highly publicized aspect of this ambitious strategy is the planned development of a sophisticated, multi-layered air defense system, aptly named the "Achilles Shield," which is envisioned to provide Greece with a robust defense against a wide spectrum of aerial threats. The consistent prioritization of defense spending over the years suggests a deeply ingrained perception of external threats, with the relationship with Turkey being a primary driver.

This new strategy appears to be a continuation and intensification of this long-term trend, reflecting an understanding that maintaining a strong defense is crucial for national security. The timing of this significant defense plan coincides with a period of heightened global instability, indicating that Greece is proactively responding to a perceived increase in threats or a potential need to become more self-reliant in its security arrangements. The strong rhetoric employed by the Prime Minister underscores the political significance and perceived necessity of this defense overhaul, framing it

as fundamental to Greece's national identity and security. The introduction of the "Achilles Shield" as a key component further highlights the focus on bolstering defensive capabilities in a rapidly evolving security environment.

2. Financial Deep Dive: Analyzing the €25 Billion Commitment:

The Greek government has made a substantial financial commitment of €25 billion to support its 12-year defense strategy. This allocation, with some sources providing equivalent figures in United States dollars (approximately \$26.99 billion or \$27 billion), is intended to be spent over the period extending to 2036 or 2037, depending on the specific report. Prime Minister Mitsotakis has indicated that the Minister of National Defense is fully aware of the availability of these funds for the entirety of the program's duration, thereby underscoring the government's firm dedication to this long-term investment in national security. A significant financial strategy underpinning this plan involves leveraging the "escape clause" within the European Union's fiscal framework.

This mechanism will afford Greece crucial budgetary flexibility by allowing for increased defense spending over the next four years without these expenditures being immediately subject to the EU's standard deficit calculations. Some reports suggest that this ambitious plan could see Greece dedicating approximately 10% of its GDP to the acquisition of new military equipment, marking a substantial increase compared to the period of minimal defense investment experienced during the country's financial crisis in the 2010s. It is important to emphasize that this €25 billion allocation is intended to augment the already significant military expenditure that Greece has been undertaking in recent years, signaling a sustained and growing emphasis on bolstering its defense capabilities.

Furthermore, Greece's military budget for the current year has reportedly doubled to €6.13 billion, demonstrating an immediate and substantial acceleration in the nation's defense spending and modernization initiatives. Despite this considerable surge in defense spending, Prime Minister Mitsotakis has consistently stressed the importance of maintaining fiscal prudence and responsibility, acknowledging the scrutiny of financial markets and the critical role of overall economic performance in ensuring long-term national security and stability. The long-term nature of this financial commitment, explicitly guaranteed by the Prime Minister, signifies a serious and sustained intent behind the defense strategy, suggesting it is not merely a short-term political initiative.

The strategic utilization of the EU's "escape clause" highlights a calculated political and economic decision to prioritize defense spending in the near term, potentially in response to immediate security concerns or opportunities for strategic acquisitions. The potential allocation of a significant portion of GDP to military equipment points to a major shift in national priorities and resource allocation, which could have substantial implications for various sectors of the Greek economy.

The fact that this €25 billion is in addition to already significant recent military spending, and the doubling of the current year's budget, indicates an immediate acceleration of modernization efforts. Despite this significant financial outlay, the Prime Minister's emphasis on fiscal responsibility suggests an awareness of the need to balance defense spending with overall economic stability, particularly given Greece's history of financial challenges.

3. Pillar 1: Integration of Advanced Defense Technologies:

- 3.1 Unmanned Vehicles and Loitering Munitions

A fundamental aspect of Greece's forward-looking defense strategy is the comprehensive integration of unmanned vehicles across all operational domains, including air, sea, and underwater, alongside the incorporation of advanced loitering munitions and a diverse array of drones into the long-term planning and operational doctrines of its armed forces. Greece has already taken significant steps in this direction, with confirmed plans to procure 592 units of the cutting-edge Switchblade 300 Block 20 and the more powerful Switchblade 600 loitering munitions from the United States. This acquisition, valued at €75.2 million, will be partially financed through the US Foreign Military Financing program, highlighting the strong defense cooperation between the two nations. Furthermore, due to an increase in production capacity by the manufacturer, AeroVironment, Greece is actively considering expanding its order for these highly effective US-made drones beyond the initially agreed quantity of 600 units, potentially within the currently allocated budget.

Recognizing the paramount importance of fostering indigenous technological capabilities, Greece is also making substantial efforts to boost its domestic drone production for a wide range of applications, including military operations, commercial activities, and humanitarian aid, with the recently established Hellenic Center for Defense Innovation (HCDI) playing a pivotal role in this endeavor. A notable development in this area is the strategic partnership forged between the Greek state defense company, Hellenic Defence Systems (EAS), and Paramount Industries Greece. This collaboration is focused on the local production of next-generation, long-range loitering munitions, including the advanced "IRIX" system, marking a significant step towards greater self-reliance in this critical technology domain. To bolster its intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities, particularly over the strategically important Aegean Sea and the Thracian region, the Hellenic Army is poised to receive four state-of-the-art French-made Patroller long-range surveillance drones soon, as part of a program with an estimated value of €55 million.

Beyond these specific acquisitions and partnerships, Greek officials have also articulated broader plans for the procurement of new air, sea, and underwater drones, underscoring the nation's comprehensive and multi-faceted approach to integrating unmanned systems across all branches of its armed forces. This extensive integration of unmanned vehicles across all military domains indicates a clear understanding of the evolving nature of modern warfare and a strategic move towards leveraging technologies that can provide a significant operational advantage.

The confirmed acquisition of Switchblade loitering munitions from the US demonstrates a tangible step in implementing this pillar of the defense strategy and underscores the strong defense partnership with the United States. The potential expansion of this order further highlights the priority given to these capabilities and a flexible approach to adapting the strategy based on availability.

The significant emphasis on boosting domestic drone production, with the HCDI playing a central role, aligns with the overarching goal of strengthening the Greek defense industry and fostering technological independence. The strategic partnership between EAS and Paramount Industries Greece for the local production of advanced loitering munitions exemplifies the commitment to involving the domestic industry in high-technology defense programs. The acquisition of French-made Patroller surveillance drones showcases a diversification of procurement sources and reinforces the strong defense relationship with France, particularly in the critical area of intelligence gathering.

- **3.2 Drones and Anti-Drone Systems**

Complementing its significant investments in drone technology, Greece is also placing a substantial emphasis on developing and deploying robust anti-drone systems to effectively counter the increasingly sophisticated threats posed by unmanned aerial vehicles. The cornerstone of this effort is the development of the "Achilles Shield," a comprehensive, multi-layered air defense system specifically engineered to provide robust anti-drone coverage, in addition to its capabilities against traditional aerial threats such as aircraft and missiles, as well as maritime threats.

As part of its strategy to counter smaller UAVs, Greece is reportedly considering the acquisition of the Coyote system, an innovative, small, expendable drone developed by Raytheon that can be launched from various platforms, including land vehicles, aircraft, and naval vessels, and is designed to intercept hostile drones. Demonstrating a commitment to indigenous technological solutions, Greek scientists have developed a cutting-edge mobile high-power laser counter-drone device known as "Minotaur." This system is reported to possess the capability to both blind and potentially ignite drones, while also having the advantage of being invisible to thermal detection systems. As part of a broader defense modernization initiative, Greece is implementing a plan to deploy drone systems (UAVs) across all its military bases nationwide, with a firm commitment to equipping every unit within the Greek Army with an organic anti-drone capability.

Furthermore, the Hellenic Navy's frigates are slated to be equipped with a domestically developed anti-drone system, the Centaur, produced by Hellenic Aerospace Industry (HAI). This system has reportedly already been deployed and successfully engaged Houthi-launched drones in the Red Sea, showcasing its operational effectiveness. The substantial investment in both drone and anti-drone systems signifies a comprehensive understanding of the evolving battlefield, where unmanned aerial vehicles play an increasingly significant role.

The development of the "Achilles Shield" with a specific focus on anti-drone capabilities underscores the priority given to countering this emerging threat. The potential acquisition of the US-made Coyote system indicates a strategy to address the challenge posed by smaller, more numerous drones. The indigenous development of the "Minotaur" laser counter-drone device highlights Greece's commitment to innovation and the pursuit of advanced technological solutions. The plan to deploy drones and anti-drone systems across all military bases and equip every Army unit with organic anti-drone capabilities demonstrates a recognition of the pervasive nature of drone threats at all levels of military operations. The successful deployment and operational use of the domestically developed "Centaur" system by the Hellenic Navy against hostile drones provides real-world validation of Greece's indigenous anti-drone technology.

- **3.3 Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Defense**

Greece recognizes the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and is making a concerted effort to integrate this advanced technology into the long-term planning and operational framework of its armed forces. The nation's defense strategy envisions a significant shift away from traditional defense systems towards a more sophisticated, high-tech, and networked approach.

A key element of this transformation is the development and deployment of mobile, AI-powered missile systems, indicating a strategic move towards enhanced automation, precision targeting, and overall effectiveness in its strike capabilities. While the integration of AI into military systems presents potential challenges, particularly in the realm of cyber

security, some analysis suggests that AI's capabilities may ultimately prove more beneficial to cyber defenders than to offensive actors, offering powerful tools for the early detection of sophisticated threats and the rapid development of effective countermeasures.

Looking towards the future, there is a conceptual vision of allied nations collaborating to establish a comprehensive "cyber dome" for the Mediterranean region. This ambitious initiative would leverage the power of both Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (ML) to achieve enhanced cybersecurity, improved situational awareness, and more effective responses to cyber threats across the region. The integration of Artificial Intelligence into Greece's defense strategy reflects an understanding of the revolutionary impact AI is expected to have on future warfare. The development of AI-powered missile systems suggests a move towards more autonomous and precise strike capabilities. The recognition that AI could be particularly beneficial for cyber defense indicates a strategic focus on leveraging this technology to protect against increasingly sophisticated cyber threats. The conceptualization of a regional "cyber dome" utilizing AI and machine learning highlights a forward-thinking approach to addressing cyber security challenges through international collaboration and advanced technology.

- **3.4 Cyber Defense and Cyber Offense Capabilities**

A critical and increasingly vital component of Greece's comprehensive defense modernization strategy is the strong emphasis being placed on the development and significant enhancement of both its cyber defense and cyber offense capabilities. This focus reflects a clear understanding of the cyber domain as a crucial and contested battleground in the context of modern warfare. The planned arms procurement initiatives, which are slated to extend through 2036, will incorporate a substantial focus on cyber-related technologies and infrastructure. This indicates a significant financial investment in acquiring the necessary tools, systems, and expertise to effectively defend against cyberattacks and to project credible offensive cyber power when necessary.

As part of a broader and more fundamental overhaul of its defense forces, Greece intends to significantly boost its overall cyber-warfare potential. This strategic commitment signals a clear recognition of the need to develop a robust and credible offensive cyber capability to complement its defensive measures. To further strengthen its national cyber security posture and enhance its ability to respond effectively to the growing spectrum of cyber threats, Greece is planning to integrate its national cyber defense command directly into the structure of its armed forces. This move is intended to streamline command and control processes, improve inter-agency coordination, and ensure a more unified and effective response to cyber incidents.

The strong emphasis on both cyber defense and offense demonstrates a comprehensive approach to security in the digital age, recognizing the importance of both protecting national assets and possessing the capability to respond in kind to cyber threats. The significant focus on cyber-related technologies in the long-term procurement plans indicates a sustained investment in building a robust cyber capability. The intention to significantly enhance overall cyber-warfare potential reflects a strategic decision to develop a credible offensive cyber arm as part of its broader defense modernization. The integration of the national cyber defense command into the armed force's structure aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Greece's response to cyberattacks through better coordination and command.

- **3.5 The "Achilles Shield" Multi-Layered Air Defense System**

A central and highly publicized element of Greece's ambitious 12-year defense plan is the

creation of a sophisticated and comprehensive five-tiered multi-layered air defense system, appropriately named the "Achilles Shield". This strategically vital system is meticulously designed to provide Greece with robust and all-encompassing coverage against a wide array of aerial threats, including not only traditional anti-aircraft and anti-ballistic missile capabilities but also crucial anti-ship, anti-submarine, and, increasingly importantly, anti-drone functionalities.

The "Achilles Shield" will be constructed upon the existing foundation of Greece's current air defense assets, such as the Patriot missile system, and will be significantly augmented by the acquisition and integration of new, cutting-edge weaponry, the specifics of which are expected to be unveiled soon. Greece is reportedly engaged in ongoing negotiations with Israel, a recognized global leader in air defense technology, for the acquisition of key components and systems that will form an integral part of the "Achilles Shield," suggesting a potential reliance on Israeli expertise in this critical domain.

These potential acquisitions from Israel are rumored to include advanced anti-drone technologies, further underscoring the system's emphasis on countering unmanned aerial threats, as well as sophisticated missile defense systems and potentially even naval defense capabilities. In parallel to these international procurement efforts, Greece is actively fostering the development of its own domestic defense industry, with the aim of producing key components and systems for the "Achilles Shield" indigenously, highlighting a strategic commitment to self-reliance and technological advancement.

The "Achilles Shield" is envisioned as a truly comprehensive and integrated system, designed to seamlessly interoperate across all branches of the Greek armed forces – Army, Navy, and Air Force – providing a unified and highly effective defense umbrella over Greek territory and its strategic interests. Furthermore, there are aspirations for this advanced air defense system to potentially be networked with those of other European allies and partners, thereby contributing to a more robust and interconnected regional security architecture. The development of the "Achilles Shield" as a five-tiered multi-layered system signifies a comprehensive and sophisticated approach to air defense, designed to counter a wide range of threats across different domains. Building upon existing air defense assets while integrating new, cutting-edge weaponry demonstrates a strategy of both leveraging current capabilities and investing in future technologies.

The ongoing negotiations with Israel, a leader in air defense technology, suggest a strategic partnership to acquire critical components and benefit from their expertise. The rumored potential acquisitions from Israel, including advanced anti-drone and missile defense systems, highlight the focus on addressing contemporary and evolving threats. The parallel emphasis on fostering domestic defense industry involvement in the production of key components for the "Achilles Shield" reflects a strategic commitment to national self-reliance.

The vision of a seamlessly interoperable system across all branches of the Greek armed forces underscores the goal of creating a unified and effective defense network. The aspiration to network the "Achilles Shield" with the air defense systems of other European allies indicates a desire to contribute to a more integrated and robust regional security framework.

4. Pillar 2: Active Participation of the Greek Defense Industry:

A cornerstone of Greece's new defense strategy is the unwavering commitment to ensuring the active and substantial participation of the domestic Greek defense industry in all future defense programs. Prime Minister Mitsotakis has explicitly stated that the meaningful involvement of Greek defense companies will be a "non-negotiable condition" for any major defense investment undertaken as part of this ambitious 12-year plan. This emphasis on indigenous industrial capabilities extends across the entire spectrum of defense programs, encompassing not only the acquisition of new hardware but also the critical areas of research and development, cutting-edge technological innovation, and the provision of essential support services.

The Greek government intends to leverage the expertise and potential of its domestic defense sector to enhance national security while simultaneously fostering economic growth, generating high-quality employment opportunities within the country, and ensuring a greater degree of self-sufficiency in critical defense capabilities. This strategic approach is exemplified by the recent collaboration between the state-owned Hellenic Defence Systems (EAS) and Paramount Industries Greece, which aims to facilitate the local production of advanced, long-range loitering munitions, including the highly sophisticated "IRIX" system.

Additionally, the Hellenic Aerospace Industry (HAI) plays a vital role in the defense ecosystem, as demonstrated by its development and deployment of the "Centaur" anti-drone system, which is now operational on Hellenic Navy frigates and has proven effective against drones in real-world scenarios, including those launched by Houthi forces in the Red Sea. Furthermore, the establishment of the Hellenic Center for Defence Innovation (HCDI) underscores the government's commitment to supporting research, development, and innovation within the Greek defense sector, with a particular focus on unmanned systems and other cutting-edge technologies.

This strategic emphasis on bolstering the domestic defense industry not only aims to enhance Greece's military capabilities and reduce its reliance on foreign suppliers in the long term but also seeks to position the country as a potential exporter of specialized defense products and services, thereby further contributing to its economic prosperity and strategic influence. The strong commitment to actively involve the domestic defense industry in all future programs signifies a strategic objective that extends beyond military modernization to include economic development and national self-reliance.

The Prime Minister's declaration that domestic industry participation is non-negotiable underscores the high priority placed on this aspect of the strategy. The emphasis on indigenous capabilities across various defense domains, including R&D and support services, highlights a comprehensive approach to strengthening the national defense industrial base. The collaboration between EAS and Paramount Industries Greece for the local production of advanced loitering munitions demonstrates a concrete step towards realizing this commitment.

The vital role of HAI in developing and deploying the "Centaur" anti-drone system showcases the existing capabilities within the Greek defense industry. The establishment of HCDI signifies a long-term investment in fostering innovation and technological advancement within the sector. The ambition to position Greece as a defense exporter indicates a strategic vision for the industry to contribute significantly to the national economy and enhance the country's international standing.

5. Impact on Greece's Strategic Alliances:

- **5.1 United States**

Greece's ambitious defense modernization strategy is poised to further strengthen its already robust strategic partnership with the United States. The planned acquisition of

advanced US-made defense technologies, such as the Switchblade loitering munitions, underscores the ongoing defense cooperation between the two nations. This procurement is partially funded through the US Foreign Military Financing program, highlighting the US commitment to supporting Greece's defense capabilities. Additionally, Greece's emphasis on interoperability with NATO forces aligns well with the US strategic objectives in the region. The recent renewal and expansion of the Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement (MDCA) between Greece and the United States further solidifies their close security ties, granting the US military continued access to key Greek military facilities, which are strategically important for maintaining stability in the Eastern Mediterranean and the broader region.

Greece's proactive investments in defense, particularly in areas like cyber security and advanced air defense systems such as the "Achilles Shield," are likely to be viewed favorably by the United States, as they contribute to the overall security architecture of NATO's southern flank. The continued reliance on US military technology and the financial support provided through the Foreign Military Financing program underscore the central role of the alliance with the United States in Greece's defense modernization efforts. Greece's focus on ensuring its forces can operate seamlessly with NATO allies directly supports the strategic objectives of the United States in the region.

The renewal and expansion of the MDCA provide a concrete framework for long-term defense cooperation and enhance the US strategic presence in a strategically vital area. Greece's investments in critical areas like cyber security and advanced air defense are likely to be welcomed by the United States as they contribute to the security and stability of NATO's southern flank.

- **5.2 France**

Greece has cultivated a significant and deepening strategic partnership with France, a relationship that is also expected to be positively reinforced by the new defense strategy. A key aspect of this partnership is the existing defense agreement between the two countries, which includes provisions for mutual assistance in the event of an attack on either nation's sovereignty.

Greece's commitment to acquiring French-made defense equipment, such as the advanced Rafale fighter jets and the Belharra-class frigates, demonstrates a strong level of trust and alignment in their defense priorities. The planned integration of unmanned aerial vehicles, including the French-made Patroller surveillance drones, further solidifies this trend of defense cooperation. France has been a vocal proponent of European strategic autonomy, a concept that resonates strongly with Greece's own strategic objectives.

Greece's increased defense spending and focus on advanced technologies are likely to be viewed by France as a positive contribution to the overall strengthening of European defense capabilities and a tangible step towards greater strategic independence. The strong and deepening strategic partnership with France is further solidified by Greece's commitment to acquiring advanced French military hardware, demonstrating a high level of trust and shared strategic priorities. The existing defense agreement between the two nations provides a strong foundation for mutual security cooperation.

Greece's procurement of French-made equipment, including fighter jets and frigates, underscores the commitment to this partnership and enhances Greece's military capabilities with state-of-the-art European technology. The planned integration of French surveillance drones further deepens the defense cooperation, particularly in intelligence gathering. The alignment of Greece's strategic objectives with France's advocacy for

European strategic autonomy indicates a shared vision for a more independent and capable European role in global security. France is likely to view Greece's increased defense spending and focus on advanced technologies as a positive contribution to strengthening Europe's overall defense capabilities and moving towards greater strategic independence.

- **5.3 Other Allies and NATO**

Greece's 12-year defense strategy is anticipated to have broader positive implications for its relationships with other allies within the NATO framework. By investing significantly in modernizing its armed forces and focusing on interoperable technologies, Greece will be better positioned to contribute to collective security efforts and joint military operations within the alliance. The development of advanced capabilities in areas such as cyber defense and air defense will enhance Greece's role as a key security provider in the strategically important Eastern Mediterranean region.

Furthermore, Greece's commitment to involving its domestic defense industry in these modernization efforts could potentially lead to opportunities for collaboration and partnerships with defense companies from other allied nations, fostering greater interoperability and burden-sharing within NATO. The defense strategy is expected to strengthen Greece's relationships with its NATO allies by enhancing its military capabilities and its ability to operate effectively in joint operations. The focus on interoperable technologies will ensure that Greece can seamlessly integrate its forces with those of other NATO members, contributing more effectively to collective security.

The development of advanced capabilities, particularly in cyber and air defense, will enhance Greece's strategic importance within the alliance, especially in the Eastern Mediterranean. The commitment to involving the domestic defense industry could also foster collaboration and partnerships with defense companies from other allied nations, leading to greater interoperability and a more equitable sharing of defense burdens within NATO.

6. Greece and the EU's Push for Strategic Autonomy:

Prime Minister Mitsotakis explicitly addressed the connection between Greece's new defense strategy and the European Union's broader aspirations for greater strategic autonomy. He emphasized that he has been advocating for years for the EU to redefine its global position and strengthen its ability to act independently in the face of evolving global challenges and potential shifts in the defense approaches of key allies.

The current geopolitical landscape, including the war in Ukraine and uncertainties surrounding the future direction of US foreign policy and its role within NATO, has further underscored the urgency and importance of the EU's pursuit of strategic autonomy. Greece's decision to activate the "escape clause" within the EU's fiscal framework for the next four years, allowing for increased defense spending without immediate impact on deficit calculations, directly aligns with this broader European trend. This fiscal flexibility will enable Greece to invest more heavily in its defense capabilities, thereby contributing to the overall strengthening of the EU's collective security posture.

Prime Minister Mitsotakis has clearly articulated the link between Greece's defense strategy and the EU's push for greater strategic autonomy, highlighting his long-standing support for a more independent European role in global affairs. The current geopolitical climate, marked by instability in Europe and questions about future US security commitments, has amplified the importance of the EU developing its own defense capabilities. Greece's decision to utilize the EU's fiscal "escape clause" to facilitate increased defense spending demonstrates a concrete commitment to

enhancing its own military strength, which directly contributes to the EU's overall defense capacity. This increased investment in defense capabilities by Greece, enabled by the EU's fiscal flexibility, will strengthen the EU's collective security posture and its ability to act more autonomously on the global stage.

7. Conclusion: Implications and Future Outlook:

- Greece's ambitious 12-year defense strategy, backed by a substantial financial commitment, signifies a pivotal moment in the nation's defense policy.
- The strategy's focus on integrating advanced technologies like unmanned systems, AI, and cyber capabilities, alongside the development of a comprehensive air defense system, demonstrates a clear understanding of the evolving security landscape and the need to modernize its armed forces to meet future challenges.
- The strong emphasis on fostering the domestic defense industry not only aims to enhance national security but also promises to stimulate economic growth and reduce reliance on foreign suppliers.
- Furthermore, this initiative is set to deepen Greece's strategic alliances, particularly with the United States and France, while positioning it as a more capable and reliable partner within NATO. By aligning its defense objectives with the European Union's push for strategic autonomy, Greece is also contributing to the broader goal of a more independent and robust European security framework.
- The long-term implications of this strategy are significant. It has the potential to enhance regional stability in the Eastern Mediterranean by strengthening Greece's deterrent capabilities, although it will undoubtedly be closely watched by neighboring Turkey and could influence the regional balance of power.
- Greece's enhanced role within NATO and the EU will likely solidify its position as a key security provider in a strategically important area.
- The development of a strong domestic defense industry could lead to long-term economic benefits and greater self-sufficiency. Ultimately, this defense transformation represents a significant investment in Greece's future security and its standing within the evolving global security landscape.