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European Economic Security: The next steps

In order to implement the EU's new [Economic Security approach](#), the Commission will now simultaneously adapt how it uses the EU's existing tools, and develop new tools to address the current gaps in the EU's economic security; below are some highlights.

Adapting current tools

- **Funding:**
 - Incentivise in its funding activities projects that support the EU's economic security
 - Encourage the EIB and other national promotional banks and Institutions to prioritise support to EU businesses that reduce over-dependence on high-risk foreign suppliers.
- **FDI screening:** Develop guidelines to ensure national screening authorities screen investments consistently. This will ensure that the same strategic economic security considerations are taken into account no matter which Member State is screening the investment.
- **Export controls:** Carry out in 2026 an evaluation of the Dual-Use Export Control Regulation to check if it is well adapted to its aims and can keep pace with the latest geopolitical developments
- **Trade Defence instruments:** Consider economic security implications in relevant Trade Defence investigations and in the design of measures.
- **Competition tools:**
 - Fully utilise the Foreign Subsidies Regulation and other competition tools to preserve fair competition, especially where unfair competition is identified as a source of a dependency which threatens the EU's economic security.
 - Encourage Member States to make full use of existing State aid possibilities to spur investment in developing domestic European industry where this is relevant to boost the EU's economic security.

Creating new tools

- Launch a pilot project to monitor **start-ups in critical technology areas**, aimed at identifying start-ups that are vulnerable to hostile foreign acquisitions and offer them support.

- **Monitor at a Member State level portfolio investments in high-risk areas**, (which fall outside the current scope of the FDI screening) in areas identified as high-risk for economic security purposes.
- Review the EU's **Blocking Statute** to deter foreign countries from applying extra-territorial sanctions against EU citizens and businesses.
- Review the **Public Procurement Directives** to **propose European preference criteria in specific strategic sectors** in which our public procurement stimulates demand for European industrial leadership, increases our resilience and mitigates risks for security.
- Incentivise companies to **reduce dependencies in emerging technology areas** as part of the upcoming Chips Act 2.0, Quantum Act, Cloud and AI Development Act and Commission Strategy on Open Source