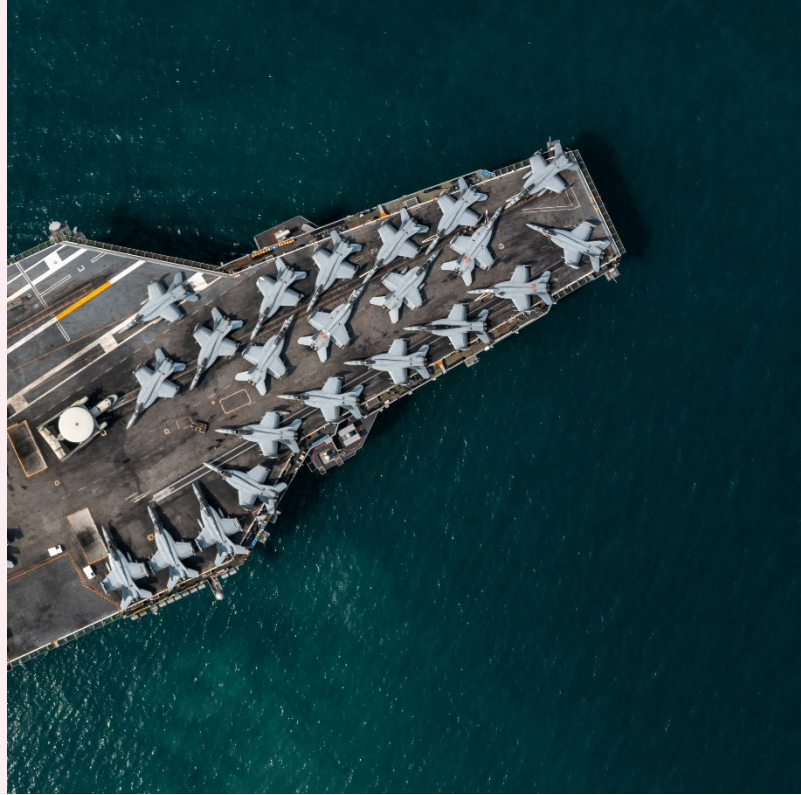


The NATO Summit in Ankara: Strengthening NATO's Defence and Industrial Base

10 July 2026



NATO leaders convened in Ankara on 7-8 July 2026 for a pivotal summit that reaffirmed the Alliance's "*unity, solidarity and collective strength*". In the Summit Declaration, Allies restated their commitment to NATO providing a "*360-degree approach to deterrence and defence*". European Allies and Canada, working with the United States, also committed to assuming greater responsibility for the Alliance's defence. Allies further pledged to build a more robust and flexible defence industry, accelerate joint procurement, boost production capacity, and enhance interoperability across Alliance members, with member states announcing more than US\$50 billion in new procurements. The summit also reaffirmed NATO's support for Ukraine, pledging its "*unwavering support for Ukraine in defending its freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity*."

Mircea Geoană, former Deputy Secretary General, NATO:

"The Summit in Ankara is the first political step towards NATO 3.0 - an Alliance transforming from its over-reliance on the US into one with a stronger European contribution to our collective security. This effort requires a complex renegotiation between the United States and the European allies and Canada and, consequently, significant changes in NATO's doctrine, capabilities, and its industrial and innovation base. A process that will be gradual, systematic and, if well conducted, positive for the future of our Alliance."

Adrian Cartwright, Senior Partner at Clifford Chance:

"The recommitment of NATO member states at Ankara sends not only a clear and consequential signal to capitals throughout the world, but also an important message to markets, investors and industry alike. What we are witnessing is a structural shift in how NATO Allied governments will approach defence financing, procurement frameworks and cross-border industrial collaboration for years to come as NATO allies unveil billions in new defence spending."

Rob Lambert, Partner and Global Head of the Defence Sector at Clifford Chance:

The Ankara Summit marks an inflection point in the NATO Alliance. We are witnessing tectonic changes in the geopolitical landscape. The Summit signals a clear recognition that collective security increasingly depends on international cooperation extending beyond the defence sphere into trade, investment and industrial partnerships. The Clifford Chance defence sector team is monitoring these developments closely so that we can help our clients succeed in this complex and fast-moving environment."

René Latour, Partner at Clifford Chance:

"Interestingly, perhaps Ankara's most significant achievement may be cementing NATO's increasing recognition that industrial capacity is now a core element of collective deterrence. The Alliance is moving beyond discussions about defence spending and focusing on the harder challenge—how to convert capital into production capacity, resilient supply chains, advanced technologies, and deployable military capability. We expect increased demand for cross-border investment, strategic partnerships, joint ventures, production financing, and industrial modernisation throughout the Alliance."

Jonathan Lewis, Avocat Of Counsel at Clifford Chance:

"The Ankara NATO summit marked significant progress on multi-national and inter-governmental cooperation in the area of defence and financing defence:

Nine countries adhered to become founding members of the Defence Security and Resilience Bank ("DSRB"). Its objective is to create a AAA-rated bank, backed by paid-in and callable capital subscribed by sovereigns to raise funds at low cost in the capital markets to lend to countries or defence projects and to use guarantees and other financial tools as a catalyst to "crowd-in" private capital to invest in the defence and resilience sectors. Its main sector target is to close the funding gap for SMEs, innovative companies and the wider defence and resilience supply chain.

Poland announced on Monday 6 July that it will now join the United Kingdom, Finland and the Netherlands as founding parties to the inter-governmental multilateral defence mechanism ("MDB"). Whilst the focus of MDC appears to be achieving more efficient and interoperable joint procurement, it will also provide finance and financial support to the defence sector. It remains to be seen whether these are complementary, parallel initiatives or whether they will in due course be consolidated or merged. In both cases, early members will have a significant influence on the orientation, strategy and governance of these new institutions."

Joanne Neenan, Director of Public International Law at Clifford Chance:

"In the Ankara Summit Declaration, NATO allies reaffirmed an "ironclad commitment" to their collective defence under Article 5 of the NATO treaty. This demonstrates how public international law continues to anchor transatlantic security, even as the Alliance rebalances the transatlantic bargain, with European allies and Canada shouldering greater responsibility through accelerated investments and capabilities."

About Clifford Chance

Our defence sector team is a market leader. It advises on all commercial and financial aspects of international cross-border mandates within the sector. We have a long track record of delivering major complex projects and robust advice on all aspects of major defence programmes in all conflict domains (land, sea, air, space and cyber). We provide tailored solutions for clients around the world on investment decisions, compliance challenges, regulatory interventions, government investigations and disputes in the defence sector.

Our deep knowledge of ITAR / defence regulation, sanctions / export control, NSIA / CFIUS and broad experience of defence sector financing and transactions sets us apart from other law firms. We are one of the very few firms that can provide globally integrated advice on defence-related activities in or involving NATO member states.

We remain committed to supporting businesses and investors in the defence sector and continue to follow legal developments in this sector closely.

Please get in touch with any of the contacts on the following page if you would like to discuss recent developments and the evolving international financing, regulatory and risk mitigation landscape.

For more insights and analysis on developments in the Defence Sector, see our recent publications (below).

- [The UK Defence Investment Plan: what to watch](#)
- [Reshaping European Defence: Key legal impacts](#)
- [Re-shaping the defence landscape – implications of the EU's ReArm Europe Plan/Readiness 2030 for the global defence industry](#)



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This publication does not necessarily deal with every important topic or cover every aspect of the topics with which it deals. It is not designed to provide legal or other advice.

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