

## Briefing of the Standing Committee of National Defense and Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Parliament by the Minister of National Defence Nikos Dendias on the New Structure of the Armed Forces 2024-2035

On 14 November 2024, the Minister of National Defense Nikos Dendias informed the members of the Standing Committee on National Defense and Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Parliament, about the New Structure of the Armed Forces 2024-2035.

The briefing, which was attended by the Deputy Minister of National Defense Yiannis Kefalogiannis, by the Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Dimitrios Houppis, the Chief of Hellenic Army General Staff Lieutenant General Georgios Kostidis, the Chief of Hellenic Navy General Staff Vice-Admiral Dimitrios-Eleftherios Kataras HN and the Chief of Hellenic Air Force General Staff Lieutenant General Dimosthenis Grigoriadis The Secretary General of the Ministry of National Defense Antonios Economou was also present.

The Defence Minister outlined Greece's comprehensive plan for the Hellenic Armed Forces' restructuring for 2024-2035. Key highlights of the discussion included:

### 1. Vision and Goals

- The overarching aim is to modernize the Armed Forces to effectively respond to 21st-century security challenges.
- This transformation aligns with Greece's "Agenda 2030" strategic framework.

### 2. Reforms in Innovation and Technology

- **Hellenic Center for Defense Innovation:** Created to bridge Armed Forces' needs with the local and international defense innovation ecosystem.
- Success stories like the **KENTAVROS anti-drone system** were highlighted, with its deployment in real combat scenarios and its planned integration across Greek frigates.
- Collaboration with international partners, including a joint presentation with France on defense innovation in December.

### 3. Armaments Programs

- Ongoing modernization of MEKO-class frigates, missiles, building of the new Constellation frigates that is being designed together with the United State, building of the new corvette that is being designed under the EU funded European Corvette Project and acquisition of new submarines that we have entered into initial discussions about



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- All these programs will transfer to the Greek shipbuilding industry Investments of €6-7 billion over the next decade.
- Significant enhancements in naval strategic strike and air defense capabilities.
- Hellenic Air Force General Staff has developed a plan to standardize aircraft types. The target is a fleet of 200 advanced fighters, including upgraded F-16 Vipers, Rafales, and F-35s, achieving unmatched efficiency and effectiveness. This fleet, though smaller, will be 3-4 times more potent than previous configurations.
- Enhanced focus on **drone and anti-drone capabilities**, integrating these into all Army units.
- None of these advancements will succeed without modernizing communications. Protected satellite communications and a Greek satellite are essential, especially as potential adversaries already operate two satellites. Cyber warfare capabilities, both offensive and defensive, will also be prioritized. A Cyber War building, funded through private donations, is set to open soon.
- Streamlining of programs with the introduction of a **10-year prioritized and costed equipment plan** for parliamentary review.

## 4. Structural and Operational Changes

- **Unit Reorganization:** Addressing inefficiencies in troop deployments and camp density, including the closure of 137 camps in 2025.
- Transition to **flexible, high-completeness units** across the Armed Forces.

## 5. Personnel and Social Reforms

- Reforming military schools, recruitment pathways, and family support systems to attract and retain talent.
- Enhancements in military justice and hospital systems, including a cutting-edge trauma treatment unit.

## 6. Financial Planning and Private Contributions

- Addressing budget constraints with operational cost savings of €2 billion over the next decade and leveraging private donations to supplement funding.

## 7. Parliamentary Involvement and Consensus

The Minister emphasized the need for broad political consensus on defense reforms, acknowledging diverse opinions and the collective goal of national interest.

This restructuring marks a pivotal shift in Greece's defense strategy, aiming for a more modern, efficient, and technologically advanced Armed Forces capable of addressing evolving regional and global security challenges.

