

Defence-Critical Supply Chain Security Roadmap



Source: TydenBrooksUK

What is the Defence-Critical Supply Chain Security Roadmap?

NATO Defence Ministers endorsed a defence-critical supply chain security roadmap at their meeting in June 2024.

The roadmap outlines specific opportunities for collective and/or multinational cooperation to protect Allies' supply chains from any possible disruption that could impact NATO's deterrence and defence.

Five lines of effort drive the roadmap:



Supply risk for critical raw materials in military applications



Source: Strategic raw materials for defence Mapping European industry needs
 Benedetta Girardi, Irina Patrahau, Giovanni Cisco and Michel Rademaker
 The Hague Center for Strategic Studies, January 2023

Why is it important?

- Consecutive global disruptions ranging from the COVID-19 pandemic to Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine to the environmental threats borne from climate change, together with the increasing complexity of defence supply chains, have highlighted the fragile and vulnerable nature of defence-critical supply chains.
- For NATO, the responsiveness, strength, resilience and security of supply chains is essential to protecting Allied industries and ensuring that the Alliance develops military capabilities free from the hostile influence of potential adversaries.
- At the 2024 NATO Summit in Washington, NATO Heads of State and Government have reiterated their commitment to identifying and mitigating strategic vulnerabilities and dependencies, including with respect to supply chains.

Who will implement the defence-critical supply chain security roadmap?

- Allies in the Defence Industrial Production Board working with colleagues from the NIAG Industrial Interface Group will lead the implementation of the Roadmap. They will work hand in hand with the Science and Technology community.
- Global issues require global perspectives. Addressing supply chain security requires engagement with relevant stakeholders through a whole-of-government approach, including Allied defence industry and relevant NATO partners.

Next steps

- NATO is now implementing the five lines of effort in the Roadmap, including through:
 - regular sharing of best practices and national approaches amongst Allies,
 - leveraging a NATO Industrial Advisory Group study primarily focused on possible mitigations efforts to overcome supply chain challenges, and
 - engaging with Allies and industry to identify the way ahead for strategic stockpiling and recycling and substitute materials of defence-critical strategic materials.
- NATO will regularly review progress towards meeting the key outcomes and action items included in the Roadmap.

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