



EUROPEAN ORGANISATION FOR STRATEGIC POLICY

STRATEGIC BRIEF · SB 03 / 2026

After Ankara: A European Delivery Compact for NATO's New Commitments

Turning investment, industrial announcements and advanced-capability
priorities into measurable readiness.

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After Ankara: A European Delivery Compact for NATO's New Commitments

Turning investment, industrial announcements and advanced-capability priorities into measurable readiness.

EXECUTIVE JUDGEMENT

The 2026 Ankara Summit established a stronger delivery agenda; European credibility now depends on converting procurement announcements into interoperable capability, production depth and a transparent sequence of readiness milestones.

KEY FINDINGS

- Ankara shifted the political centre of gravity from expenditure pledges to industrial output and advanced capability delivery.
- A public demand signal is useful only when national contracting, standards and financing respond at comparable speed.
- Counter-drone, integrated air defence, surveillance, precision strike and secure communications require a common architecture rather than isolated purchases.
- Annual political reporting should distinguish money committed, contracts signed, production added and units operationally available.

From pledge to production

The central achievement of the Ankara Summit was to make delivery visible. Procurement announcements, a stronger relationship with industry and new capability priorities create momentum, but they do not automatically resolve fragmented demand, production lead times or national certification. Governments should translate Alliance requirements into a small number of multi-year delivery compacts that state the operational effect, common standard, industrial owner and date of availability.

The capabilities that organise the system

Some investments have disproportionate value because they connect national forces into a coherent whole. Integrated air and missile defence, persistent surveillance, secure command networks, logistics and counter-drone systems allow other capabilities to operate. These enabling layers should be treated as common infrastructure, with shared data standards, exercises and maintenance arrangements established before platforms enter service.

Industrial resilience and democratic confidence

Long-term contracts can expand production only when demand is stable and finance is available. The new NATO-industry mechanisms should be matched by national procurement reform and a clear role for smaller innovative firms. Public confidence requires reporting that is honest about delivery risk without disclosing operational vulnerabilities. The relevant question is not which country announces the largest number, but whether the Alliance can sustain a demanding mission.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 01 Publish a European implementation annex to the Ankara commitments with dated capability milestones.
- 02 Pool demand for integrated air defence, counter-drone systems, ammunition and secure communications.
- 03 Measure production capacity, repair capacity and operational availability separately.
- 04 Use common test ranges and exercises to accelerate interoperability certification.
- 05 Report annually to parliaments on delivery risk, industrial bottlenecks and corrective action.

DECISION AND MONITORING MATRIX

Priority	Decision horizon	Evidence of progress
Publish a European implementation annex to the Ankara commitments with dated capability milestones.	0-90 days	Contract-to-delivery time
Pool demand for integrated air defence, counter-drone systems, ammunition and secure communications.	3-12 months	Production-line expansion
Measure production capacity, repair capacity and operational availability separately.	12-36 months	Operational availability
Use common test ranges and exercises to accelerate interoperability certification.	Continuous	Interoperability certification
Report annually to parliaments on delivery risk, industrial bottlenecks and corrective action.	Annual review	Contract-to-delivery time

INDICATORS TO WATCH

- Contract-to-delivery time
- Production-line expansion
- Operational availability
- Interoperability certification

SOURCES AND METHOD

This publication distinguishes verified institutional evidence from CERAX interpretation and forward-looking judgement. Principal public sources are listed below; all recommendations are the institutional judgement of CERAX.

- NATO, Overview of the 2026 Ankara Summit
- NATO, Defence Industry Forum in Ankara



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Independent analysis. Diplomatic judgement. European perspective.