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press release

## Defense budget and special funds for 2023 point the way to the future

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Yesterday night, the budget committee of the German Bundestag approved the defense budget and the economic plan for the special fund for 2023. In doing so, he followed the updated drafts of the Federal Government and once again underlined the importance of well-equipped armed forces.

With again more than 50 billion euros (around 50.1 billion euros) in the defense budget (departmental plan 14) and around 8.4 billion euros from the special fund, further central course can be set for necessary investments in the Bundeswehr in 2023. In order to close the gaps of the past few years, investments will be made in the equipment of the Bundeswehr - especially in the areas of capability maintenance, development and digitization - and thus in our security and freedom.

For measures to invest in armaments – i.e. for military procurement, defense technology research, development and testing – around 9.6 billion euros will be available in the individual plan 14 for the year 2023. This allows further investments to be made, for example, in A400M wide-body transport aircraft and ammunition. In addition to increased spending, the budget committee approved additional commitment appropriations of one billion euros for the procurement of ammunition last night. The continuation of the procurement of the weapon system Eurofighter or fleet service boats of class 424 can also be financed.

Of course, the current framework conditions do not stop at the Bundeswehr. Inflation, significant price increases and delivery bottlenecks have an impact on the procurement of armaments and, to a large extent, also on operating costs. All the more important is the Bundeswehr special fund, which is available for the financing of significant equipment projects, in particular complex measures spanning several years.

The 2023 economic plan of the Bundeswehr special fund, which was also approved yesterday, envisages expenditure of around 8.4 billion euros for the coming year. For example, expenses for the procurement of F35 combat aircraft, the CH-47 heavy transport helicopter, personal protective equipment for soldiers, night vision devices, the Puma infantry fighting vehicle and the frigate 126 (ships 1 to 4) are taken into account. The Bundeswehr can thus take another step towards a broad and innovation-oriented range of capabilities.

Defense Minister Lambrecht emphasizes:

"The special fund for the Bundeswehr is a unique opportunity to close the big gaps of decades of saving. We will seize them to quickly and effectively modernize our armed forces and equip them for the future according to their mission. Since even 100 billion euros are finite, we have prioritized them based on military needs.

In addition to the special fund, it is just as important that we keep an eye on the regular defense budget. This cannot be achieved without increases. A clear sign of yesterday's session is that we will receive an additional one billion euros for ammunition that we urgently need. Now it's time to roll up our sleeves and use all the leeway in public procurement law!"

The upcoming 2nd and 3rd reading of the 2023 Budget Act is planned for the 47th week. The Federal Council is expected to discuss this on December 16, 2022. The 2023 budget law is scheduled to come into force on January 1, 2023.

The Bundeswehr must become fit and fit for the future. This is not only expected by the citizens, but also by our international partners. Their readiness for action and the refocusing on national and alliance defense will also require a reliable and increasing financial line of the defense budget in the coming years.

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