

# German defense minister von der Leyen wants \$12 Billion euros more for Bundeswehr

German Defense Minister von der Leyen wants billions of euros more for the army than current budget plans foresee, a newspaper says. Her ministry has stressed the need to catch up, and modernize equipment.



German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen has put in a request for an increase to the military budget of €12 billion (\$14.6 billion) over the current term of parliament, an amount greatly in excess of present budget plans, a newspaper reported on Sunday.

The *Bild am Sonntag* said Finance Minister Olaf Scholz had so far foreseen an increase in defense spending of just €5.5 billion over the four years to 2021. The Defense Ministry had already criticized Scholz's plan on Friday as "inadequate in view of the huge accumulated needs and required modernization, particularly in the medium term."

According to the paper, von der Leyen will threaten to stop at least one international armaments project scheduled for 2019 if the defense budget is not








given a considerable boost. The first to go would be a planned submarine deal with Norway, followed by the purchase of six C-130 Hercules transport aircraft, according to *Bild*.

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## Grave deficits

Germany's defense budget in 2017 was around €37 billion and is expected to reach €39 billion in 2018. Although that represents the ninth-highest defense budget in the world, it still falls far short of the 2 percent of national GDP that NATO would like to see.

Over the past few years, there has been growing criticism that the Bundeswehr is underequipped.

Equipment problems in the German armed forces*		
	Stock	Operational
 Eurofighter, fighter jet	114	38
 Tornado, fighter jet	93	29
 Transall, transport aircraft	50	21
 NH90, utility helicopter	40	5
 Tiger, attack helicopter	43	7
 Sea King, utility helicopter	21	3-5
 Sea Lynx, multipurpose helicopter	22	4

Source: Bundestag Armed Forces Commissioner, Annual Report 2016 | \* selected examples

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Much of the Bundeswehr's equipment is not operational

In February, the newspaper *Rheinische Post* cited an internal Bundeswehr paper stating that the army lacked the necessary basic equipment for its deployment in a NATO rapid reaction force.

Germany is to take over the leadership of the multinational Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) at the start of next year. The 5,000-strong force, which is supposed to be capable of reaching combat readiness in 24 hours, was initiated

by NATO in 2014 to counter the threat of Russian military aggression against Baltic member states.

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Source: <http://www.dw.com/en/german-defense-minister-von-der-leyen-wants-12-billion-more-for-bundeswehr/a-43581186>

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