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The European Sky Shield Initiative (ESSI) is a defence and cooperation project launched by Germany with the goal of strengthening European ground-based air defence through joint procurement, operation and maintenance. On 12 October 2026, the first live-fire test of the IRIS-T SLM surface-to-air guided missile took place on the island of Crete (Greece). This system is designed to provide 360-degree, all-around protection out to medium ranges against modern airborne threats like aircraft, helicopters, cruise missiles and guided weapons, including short-range ballistic missiles.
(Photo: Bundeswehr/Francis Hildemann)

Parliamentarians' Perspectives:
Brigitte Lugk,
Member of the Bundestag (SPD), Deputy Chair of the Bundestag's Defence Committee

Army:
Counter-drone

Air Force:
- Germany's ambitions in space
- European Sky Shield Initiative (ESSI)

Special Feature: Ground-Based Air Defense (GBAD):
The defence industry in the context of strengthening the Bundeswehr

Navy:
- GMF140 – Next-generation frigate
- Project for Medium Support Units for Naval Forces (MUsE)

UStgKdo Support Command:
Military Police
German Military Police in Lithuania

Bundeswehr Logistics School
Connecting Europe's logistics networks

Bonus Distribution:

DWT „Perspectives on the Defence Industry"
Bonn, Germany
26. – 27. January 2027

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