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## **GREECE GREENLIGHTS \$4.6 BILLION AIR DEFENSE AND F-16 UPGRADE PLAN**

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John Koutroumpis

A Greek parliamentary committee has approved a defense package worth about  $\square$  billion (\$ 4.6 billion), clearing the way for Greece to deploy a new multi-layer air and drone defense system, upgrade 38 additional F-16 fighter jets, modernize naval assets, and support military transport aircraft.

The committee gave its approval during a closed-door parliamentary session on Monday, according to two sources familiar with the matter. The decision marks another major step in Athens long-term effort to strengthen military capabilities across multiple branches of the armed forces.

*Achilles Shield becomes the centerpiece*

The largest part of the package is the planned acquisition of a new air and drone defense network known as Achilles Shield, with an estimated cost of around €3 billion (\$3.4 billion).

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