



## Achilles Shield - After Finland, Greece also chooses the Israeli Shield

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In the panorama of European and Mediterranean security, **geopolitical realism often prevails over diplomatic rhetoric**. This is demonstrated clearly by the historic signing of the defense agreement between **Israel and Greece**, a massive agreement worth approximately **3 billion euros (3.5 billion dollars)** appropriately christened "**Achilles Shield**".

This is the **largest military export order in the history of bilateral relations** between the two countries and one of the most significant contracts overall for the Israeli defense industry. But beyond the staggering figures, what strikes is Athens' strategic choice: a masterpiece of **pragmatism** aimed at radically modernizing its own air defense architecture by drawing on systems that have proven themselves in the most complex theaters of war.

### **Greek pragmatism: effectiveness, speed, and field-tested technology**

Why did Greece choose Israel? The answer lies in Athens' urgent need to **equip itself with full-spectrum air coverage**, capable of neutralizing threats ranging from ballistic missiles intercepted in the upper atmosphere to commercial drones modified for military use.

Rather than relying exclusively on lengthy and complex joint European development programs — often hindered by political vetoes, bureaucratic delays, or skyrocketing costs — the Greek government chose the path of **maximum operational effectiveness**. Israeli systems (such as *David's Sling*, *SPYDER*, *BARAK MX*, and ELTA Systems' *MMR* radars) are not projects on paper: they are technologies that have passed the toughest test of all, **proving their reliability in the field** in recent Middle Eastern conflicts against Iran and its allies.

Athens' pragmatism moves along a clear axis: faced with a complex neighborhood and unrelenting geopolitical tensions in the Eastern Mediterranean, **immediate certainties and unsurpassable technological deterrence are needed**. Greece thus becomes the second European country to acquire the *David's Sling* system, making a historic leap forward in its defense posture.



Athens chooses strategic pragmatism: with the "Achilles Shield" agreement, Greece relies on Israel's anti-missile shield

## The Finland precedent: Scandinavian realism defeats European vetoes

Athens' move finds a specular and equally pragmatic echo in Northern Europe, confirming how **concrete deterrence is overcoming the traditional geographic and industrial barriers**

of the Old Continent. **Finland** too, facing a radically deteriorated security context, chose to turn its back on the long and cumbersome development times of community defense consortiums to **rely directly on Israeli technology**, also opting for the *David's Sling* system. This convergence of views between countries at opposite ends of Europe — Greece on the Mediterranean and Finland on the northeastern border — demonstrates that operational pragmatism and the need for immediate responses overcome any ideological hesitation, establishing Tel Aviv's defense industry as the **global benchmark for advanced missile defense**.

## **An integrated package and industrial returns**

The "Achilles Shield" agreement is not merely a supply of "hardware," but **an integrated system** that demonstrates the economic and industrial foresight of the agreement. Rafael will handle developing a new national command and control system to unify all defenses under a single umbrella, supported by a supplementary contract worth **26 million euros** for the anti-drone **Drone Dome** systems.

Moreover, Greek pragmatism is reflected in the agreement on **industrial cooperation and technology transfer**: Athens does not limit itself to buying products from allies, but **demand**s that part of Israeli know-how be absorbed by local industry. A virtuous circle that unites Israeli operational readiness (active at full capacity even in wartime thanks to an emergency production framework) with Greece's strategic ambitions.

## **A move that redraws regional balance**

With "Achilles Shield," Greece sends an unmistakable message: **national security tolerates no ideological dogma or strategic delays**. By betting on technological alliance with Israel, Athens equips itself with an impenetrable shield and confirms itself as a fundamental cornerstone of stability in the Eastern Mediterranean, demonstrating that **the true compass of geopolitics is ruthless pragmatism oriented toward concrete results**.