

**Question for written answer E-002535/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 144

Julie Rechagneux (Pfe), Christophe Bay (Pfe), Fabrice Leggeri (Pfe), Aleksandar Nikolic (Pfe), Angéline Furet (Pfe), Afroditi Latinopoulou (Pfe), Philippe Olivier (Pfe), Malika Sorel (Pfe), Marie Dauchy (Pfe), António Tânger Corrêa (Pfe), France Jamet (Pfe), Pascale Piera (Pfe), Pierre Pimpie (Pfe), Gilles Pennelle (Pfe)

Subject: EU-Canada agreement on Horizon Europe: reciprocity and safeguarding strategic interests

On 26 July 2024, the EU signed an agreement with Canada regarding its participation in European research programmes such as Horizon Europe. The agreement, based on Regulation (EU) 2021/695, allows Canada to participate in projects in strategic areas.

However, Article 3(4) allows Canada to restrict EU entities' participation in its research programmes, particularly in fields relating to security, strategic assets and autonomy. This imbalance raises questions about the reciprocity of the commitments made, especially in areas that are crucial for the EU's technological sovereignty.

1. Can the Commission explain why the article concerned has not undergone exhaustive public debate, given its implications for the protection of EU interests?
2. How will the Commission, at the same time as granting Canadian entities extensive participation rights in sensitive EU programmes, ensure that they will comply with EU requirements, particularly in matters of security?
3. Given that EU entities must provide equitable access to European programmes, why does the agreement not establish more rigorous guarantees to protect them against unilateral restrictions by Canada?

Submitted: 14.11.2024