

**Question for written answer E-002646/2024
to the Council**
Rule 144
João Oliveira (The Left)

Subject: Use of lethal autonomous weapons systems

The intention to use autonomous lethal weapons systems is a serious development that raises ethical and legal questions about target selection and the launching of attacks, which also has the potential to trigger an arms race.

Recently, the commander of a Ukrainian drones unit, Robert Brovdi, stated that: ‘in the next six to eight months, attack drones will become fully autonomous and will not need human control: AI systems will themselves determine the target of the attack’.

In its answer to written question E-000738/2021¹ on the development of such systems, the European Commission stated: ‘Actions for the development of lethal autonomous weapons without the possibility for meaningful human control over the selection and engagement decisions when carrying out strikes against humans are not eligible for funding under EDF.’

In light of the above:

1. What is the Council’s position in view of this declared intention and is the Council prepared to propose a ban on such weapons systems?
2. Is EU funding for military assistance to Ukraine being used for the development and/or use of lethal autonomous weapons systems?
3. If Ukraine were to deploy them, how would the Council ascertain the extent to which international human rights law and international humanitarian law are applicable?

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¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2021-000738-ASW_EN.html