

**Question for written answer E-002666/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Catherine Griset (PfE)

Subject: Reserving strategic public procurement of European software for European companies

In early 2024, the Agency for State Financial Information Technology in France awarded the contract for 'PLACE', a platform that manages government procurement, to a US firm¹.

The contract was awarded directly, i.e. without a call for tenders, to a company from outside the EU, which will now be able to access sensitive information on the 300 000 or so companies responding to calls for tenders from all French administrations, including those in charge of the army, foreign affairs and the health service.

This decision is all the more incomprehensible as a French SME that created and developed PLACE was excluded from managing the application.

1. As part of the fight against commercial and industrial espionage, is the Commission monitoring the award of strategic contracts to companies from outside the EU?
2. Has the PLACE platform received EU funding for its development?
3. Will the Commission reflect, if necessary, on ways to ensure that software developed by EU funds remains administered by European companies?

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¹ <https://www.lesechos.fr/idees-debats/cercle/opinion-commande-publique-letat-francais-joue-contre-son-camp-2132842#:~:text=Atexo%2C%20une%20PME%20fran%C3%A7aise%20qui,%C3%A9tranger%20qui%20r%C3%A9cup%C3%A8re%20sa%20solution>