

**Question for written answer E-000668/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
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Subject: European drone capabilities and defence autonomy: steps to reduce dependency on China and foster innovation in drone- and counter-drone systems

The ongoing Russian-Ukrainian war has demonstrated the transformative role of drones in modern conflict, from intelligence gathering and precision strikes to logistical support and decoy operations. Ukrainian drone production has skyrocketed to unprecedented levels, reaching up to four million units annually, with Russia reportedly matching this pace. This rapid development underscores the need for Europe to reassess its own defence strategies, particularly as the fast innovation cycles of drone and counter-drone technologies quickly render systems obsolete.

Moreover, Europe remains heavily dependent on Chinese-manufactured drones and components. Given China's growing geopolitical influence and its close cooperation with Russia, this dependency poses a significant risk to European defence autonomy. Efforts to establish production in Ukraine highlight the need for European support in both technological and industrial capacities.

In the light of these developments:

1. What steps is the Commission taking (or considering taking) to reduce Europe's dependency on Chinese drone components?
2. How does the Commission plan to promote scalable and adaptable drone production to meet future defence needs, while fostering innovation in counter-drone systems?
3. Will the Commission address the increasing involvement of civilians in warfare through drone use, and its implications for European defence and security policy?

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