

**Question for written answer E-004224/2025/rev.1
to the Commission
Rule 144
Günther Sidl (S&D)**

Subject: Risks of using AI in nuclear early warning systems

Experts warn¹ that, owing to ever shorter warning times (hypersonic missiles, missile systems being moved closer together), artificial intelligence (AI) could be used in nuclear early warning and decision-making systems, inter alia to merge and interpret sensor data and provide recommendations for decision-making.

AI decisions based on probabilistic reasoning or machine learning can, in principle, be right or wrong. Unlike in conventional programming or purely logical reasoning, there is no guarantee that results will prove correct. Misclassifications can occur in both unexpected and expected situations, where the AI risks designating an incorrect result as being very certain. Decisions made by AI are not comprehensible to humans (it is a ‘black box’) and false alarms are thus not immediately recognisable. Even if human beings still formally have the final say, there is no time or opportunity to check the results of the AI. De facto, the AI is making the decision.

There can be no such thing as a 100% reliable complex AI system. If there is an error has a probability greater than zero, it will occur (‘accidental nuclear war’).

1. What specific efforts is the Commission making at international level, in multilateral forums for instance, to prevent the use of AI in nuclear early warning and decision-making systems?
2. Is the Commission supporting research projects into the risks of AI in nuclear early warning and decision-making systems?

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¹ See, for example, Prof. Toby Walsh (UNSW Sydney), <https://thefutureofai.blogspot.com/2025/10/ai-and-war.html>; Future of Life Institute, <https://futureoflife.org/project/artificial-escalation/>; and ‘Artificial Escalation: Imagining the future of nuclear risk’, <https://thebulletin.org/2023/07/artificial-escalation-imagining-the-future-of-nuclear-risk/>