

Question for written answer E-004612/2025
to the Council
Rule 144
Christine Anderson (ESN)

Subject: Geheimdienst I: Treaty limits on any EU structure with intelligence-gathering powers

Recent media coverage¹ has suggested that the Commission is exploring the creation of a new internal unit intended to centralise sensitive strategic information for geopolitical and crisis-preparedness purposes. Although these reports refer to analytical functions, public discussion has increasingly raised the question of whether the EU might move towards a more integrated intelligence capability in the future.

Under Article 4(2) Treaty on European Union, national security remains the sole responsibility of the Member States. Any EU body equipped with intelligence-gathering powers would therefore go beyond the current Treaties and require the unanimous consent of the Member States through a formal Treaty revision procedure.

In the light of this:

1. Does the Council confirm that the EU cannot, under the current Treaties, establish any body with intelligence-gathering powers or operational intelligence functions, unless the Treaties are amended by unanimous agreement of the Member States?
2. Have the Member States discussed, mandated, or authorised any initiative, within the Commission, the European External Action Service, or elsewhere, that would move in the direction of a common EU intelligence capability?
3. What steps will the Council take to ensure that the institutional balance and the Member States' exclusive competence for national security are fully preserved?

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¹ Financial Times, Euronews and other outlets reporting on a possible 'EU intelligence unit'.