Question for written answer E-004681/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Jean-Paul Garraud (PfE), Tiago Moreira de Sá (PfE), Christophe Bay (PfE), Marieke Ehlers (PfE), Pierre Pimpie (PfE), Gilles Pennelle (PfE), France Jamet (PfE), Ewa Zajączkowska-Hernik (ESN), Mary Khan (ESN), Nikola Bartůšek (PfE), Matthieu Valet (PfE), Marie-Luce Brasier-Clain (PfE), Julie Rechagneux (PfE), Gerald Hauser (PfE), Séverine Werbrouck (PfE), Jaroslav Bžoch (PfE), Petra Steger (PfE), Jorge Buxadé Villalba (PfE), Ondřej Knotek (PfE), André Rougé (PfE), Petar Volgin (ESN), Nikolaos Anadiotis (NI), Tamás Deutsch (PfE), Kinga Gál (PfE), András László (PfE), Ivan David (ESN), Ernő Schaller-Baross (PfE), Aleksandar Nikolic (PfE), Antonín Staněk (PfE), András Gyürk (PfE), Pál Szekeres (PfE), Enikő Győri (PfE), György Hölvényi (PfE), Annamária Vicsek (PfE), Angéline Furet (PfE), Fabrice Leggeri (PfE), Geadis Geadi (ECR), Rody Tolassy (PfE), Elisabeth Dieringer (PfE), Markus Buchheit (ESN), António Tânger Corrêa (PfE), Silvia Sardone (PfE), Julien Sanchez (PfE), Virginie Joron (PfE), Pierre-Romain Thionnet (PfE), Diana Iovanovici Şoşoacă (NI), Christophe Gomart (PPE), Anne-Sophie Frigout (PfE), Gheorghe Piperea (ECR), Petras Gražulis (ESN)

Subject: Plan to set up a European intelligence service under the authority of the President of the Commission

According to press reports[1], the Commission is considering setting up a European intelligence service under the direct authority of its President, Ursula von der Leyen. This structure would build on the EU Intelligence and Situation Centre (INTCEN), report to the Directorate-General for International Partnerships and bypass existing services such as the European External Action Service and the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

The plan raises many questions about its legitimacy, its legal basis, its impact on the sovereignty of the Member States and the lack of democratic consultation at this stage. In accordance with the Treaties[2], intelligence and internal security are matters of national competence, and any European initiative in this area must comply strictly with the principle of subsidiarity.

1. Can the Commission confirm the existence of this plan, which would encroach directly on the sovereign powers of the Member States in the area of intelligence?

2. What is the legal basis and what are the tasks and governance envisaged for this structure?

3. Why have Member States and the European Parliament not been formally consulted at this stage?

Supporters[3]

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1 https://www.euronews.com/2025/11/11/is-the-eu-spy-unit-about-to-become-reality-von-der-leyen-wants-her-own-secret-service

2 Article 4(2) of the Treaty on European Union.

3 This question is supported by Members other than the authors: Mathilde Androuët (PfE), Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR), Thierry Mariani (PfE).