

**Question for written answer E-004986/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Tom Berendsen (PPE)

Subject: Acquisitions of Notified Bodies by companies from third countries

In 2021, I already drew the Commission's attention to the strategic risks of the acquisition of European Notified Bodies (NoBOs) by companies from third countries, due to their access to sensitive technical information and their crucial role in CE marking¹.

The Commission emphasised that Member States are responsible for screening foreign investments and ensuring independent and proper supervision of quality standards². However, Member States have indicated that this is the responsibility of the Commission. As a result, there are currently no structural screening or reporting obligations with regard to acquisitions of NoBOs.

The recent incident at DCI – a Dutch NoBo that abruptly ceased operations after being taken over by the Chinese NOA Group – reported on by the investigative journalism platform Follow the Money³, illustrates how very real these risks are: sensitive company files have disappeared, companies are being harmed and there are fears that information has found its way to China. This is precisely the scenario which I warned about back in 2021.

1. Does the Commission recognise the risks inherent in third-country parties acquiring NoBOs?
2. Is the Commission prepared to take measures – including carrying out an EU-wide investigation – to prevent such acquisitions and risky constructions in the future, in line with the European Parliament's call to that effect⁴?

Submitted: 17.12.2025

¹ Question for written answer E-001186/2021, https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2021-001186_EN.html

² Answer to written question E-001186/2021(ASW), https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2021-001186-ASW_EN.html

³ “Chinese eigenaar doekt ineens Fries bedrijf op. Waar zijn de bedrijfsgeheimen van klanten?”, Follow the Money, 17 november 2025 (<https://www.ftm.nl/artikelen/chinese-eigenaar-friese-keuringsclub-met-noorderzon-vertrokken>).

⁴ Report A9-0214/2022, paragraph 57.