

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002468/24
to the Commission
Tomáš Zdechovský (PPE)
(7 November 2024)**

Subject: European leaders accused of being Huawei's influential friends and ignoring recommendations

Former Polish Deputy Minister for Development Jacek Tomczak and former Alsatian councilor Lilla Merabet ⁽¹⁾ are accused of being in Huawei's pocket in Europe ⁽²⁾, even though the Commission considers Huawei to be a high risk 5G supplier. And there are even more similar cases across the EU. The security of 5G networks is a major priority for the Commission and is an essential component of its security union strategy, however, Huawei has reportedly been able to recruit numerous other high-profile lobbyists and supporters as it fights EU restrictions ⁽³⁾.

1. What kind of actions will the Commission take to prevent the disregard for the EU's position and recommendations towards 5G networks suppliers?
2. How will the Commission persuade all the Member States to insist on the prompt implementation of the EU toolbox on 5G cybersecurity to prevent similar cases?
3. In what way can the Commission compel the national governments not to cooperate with possibly dangerous technology companies?

Submitted: 7.11.2024

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(17 January 2025)**

Since the adoption of the EU 5G Cybersecurity Toolbox ⁽¹⁾, the Commission is working closely with Member States within the Network and Information Systems Cooperation Group ⁽²⁾ on the implementation of the toolbox to promote further alignment of national approaches.

This includes regular exchanges of information and best practices on all toolbox measures, including on assessing the risk profile of suppliers and applying restrictions or exclusions on high-risk suppliers in the critical and highly sensitive parts of the network.

In its communication on the 5G Toolbox from June 2023 ⁽³⁾, the Commission assessed that Huawei and ZTE represent materially higher risks than other 5G suppliers.

It urged Member States to accelerate their efforts and in particular to put in place as soon as possible restrictions on high-risk suppliers as necessary.

The Commission considers that the current situation with regards to the 5G Toolbox implementation by Member States is not satisfactory.

The second progress report on the 5G Toolbox implementation ⁽⁴⁾ from June 2023 highlighted that there is a clear risk of persisting dependency on high-risk suppliers in the internal market with potentially serious negative impacts on security for users and companies across the EU and the EU's critical infrastructure.

As emphasised also in the report by Mario Draghi ⁽⁵⁾, further action is needed to avoid critical dependencies on single suppliers, de-risk the EU's supply chain from high-risk suppliers and secure its critical infrastructure.

In this regard, the Commission is analysing options to work with Member States to enforce the 5G Toolbox and enhance the resilience of the internal market, including exploring possible legislative avenues.

¹ https://www.challenges.fr/politique/une-ex-elue-locale-dans-le-viseur-de-la-justice-pour-ses-liens-avec-huawei_908896.

² <https://www.lightreading.com/5g/huawei-counts-on-influential-friends-to-remain-european-5g-force>.

³ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_3309.

⁽¹⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/cybersecurity-5g-networks-eu-toolbox-risk-mitigating-measures>

⁽²⁾ Group established by the directive on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the EU (NIS Directive).

⁽³⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/communication-commission-implementation-5g-cybersecurity-toolbox>

⁽⁴⁾ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/second-report-member-states-progress-implementing-eu-toolbox-5g-cybersecurity>

⁽⁵⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/strengthening-european-competitiveness/eu-competitiveness-looking-ahead_en