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Answer given by Mr Kubilius
on behalf of the European Commission
(19.5.2025)

The Commission acknowledges the importance of ensuring that the EU's critical communication infrastructure remains sovereign and resilient.

The Infrastructure for Resilience, Interconnectivity and Security by Satellite (IRIS²)¹ as well as the EU Governmental Satellite Communications (GOVSATCOM)² component of the EU Space Programme, once operational, will significantly enhance the EU's governmental satellite communications capacities and contribute in a pivotal manner to the EU sovereignty and strategic autonomy.

The Regulation establishing the EU Space Programme and the EU Agency for the Space Programme³ as well as the Regulation establishing the Union Secure Connectivity Programme⁴ foresee that the Commission applies eligibility and participation conditions if it deems that this is necessary and appropriate to preserve the security, integrity and resilience of the operational EU systems. In particular, these conditions require, on components and services identified by the Commission as critical and security-sensitive, that all economic operators are not subject to control by a third country or by a third-country entity.

Regarding the potential use by Member States of communication services provided by third-country entities, the Commission cannot comment on purported agreements between a Member State and a commercial satellite operator, nor can it speculate on the characteristics of a hypothetical procurement. The purchase of this kind of equipment and services by Member States is part of their sovereign secure communication system and falls within their entire competence.

¹ https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-space/iris2-secure-connectivity_en

² https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-space/govsatcom-satellite-communications_en

³ OJ L 170, 12.5.2021 p.69 ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/696/oj>

⁴ OJ L 79, 17.3.2023 p.1 ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/588/oj>