

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001014/25
to the Council
Geadis Geadı (ECR)
(10 March 2025)

Subject: Türkiye's entry into the European Defence Industry must be prevented

Since December 2024, there have been reports that the Turkish company Baykar, a drone manufacturer, has agreed to purchase the Italian company Piaggio Aerospace. The Turkish company itself made an announcement, stating that the Italian Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy has approved the sale. Daily Sabah even adds that 'the closing of the transaction is expected in spring once a series of conditions have been met, including authorisation from the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers.' Baykar, in its announcement, states that with this acquisition it is ready to expand its influence in the European aviation market. At the same time, Baykar also seems to be heading towards a cooperation agreement with the defence and aerospace company Leonardo, which is also Italian.

With regard to the above:

1. What is the Council's view of the matter, given that this constitutes Türkiye's entry into the European Defence Industry?
2. How does the Council comment on this at a time when voices within the European Union are calling on the European institutions to impose an embargo on the sale of European arms to Türkiye?

Submitted: 10.3.2025

Reply
(7 July 2025)

It is not for the Council to comment on media reports, or on business decisions of individual economic operators.

At the same time, the Council recalls that the European Council, at its meeting on 6 March 2025, stressed that Europe must become more sovereign, more responsible for its own defence and better equipped to act and deal autonomously with immediate and future challenges and threats with a 360° approach.

In doing so, the Union will reinforce its overall defence readiness, reduce its strategic dependencies, address its critical capability gaps and strengthen the European defence technological and industrial base accordingly across the Union so that it is in a position to better supply equipment in the quantities and at the accelerated pace needed.

This will also contribute to boosting European industrial and technological competitiveness. The above is without prejudice to the specific character of the security and defence policy of certain Member States, and takes into account the security and defence interests of all Member States, in accordance with the Treaties.
