

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001235/25
to the Commission
Mathilde Androuët (Pfe), Pierre-Romain Thionnet (Pfe), Matthieu Valet (Pfe)
(25 March 2025)**

Subject: Keeping the acquisition of military equipment independent and upholding the ‘buy European’ mantra following the appointment of Rudy Priem

La Lettre ⁽¹⁾ has revealed that the Aerospace, Security and Defence Industries Association of Europe (ASD) has made Rudy Priem the Vice-Chair of its Economic, Legal and Trade Commission. Three years ago, Rudy Priem chaired the defence committee of the American Chamber of Commerce to the European Union (AmCham EU), and he is currently the Director of Government Relations at RTX, a US arms giant.

While the ASD cooperates and takes part in the Commission’s public consultations ⁽²⁾, AmChamEU is known for opposing all programmes aimed at strengthening Europe’s autonomy in defence. Meanwhile, Rudy Priem has been touting the supposed ‘industrial benefits’ that the purchase of F-35 fighters would bring European countries.

In March, the Commission announced its plan to borrow EUR 150 billion for the purchase of defence systems ⁽³⁾, stressing that the money should help boost Europe’s arms industry ⁽⁴⁾.

1. Was the Commission aware of this revelation? If so, how can it be sure there is no conflict of interest?
2. Given that trade relations with the US administration are currently strained, what plans and suggestions does it have to promote and anchor the much-needed ‘buy European’ approach to military acquisitions?

Submitted: 25.3.2025

**Answer given by Mr Kubilius on behalf of the European Commission
(22 July 2025)**

The Commission respects the freedom and sole responsibility of professional organisations to choose as their representatives the individuals they consider fit for this purpose.

The Commission notes that RTX Corporation is registered in the Transparency Register and declares in its registration Mr Priem as their person in charge of EU relations ⁽¹⁾.

In their relations with external stakeholders, Commission Members and staff members are bound by stringent rules and internal control standards, included in particular in the treaties, the Staff Regulations ⁽²⁾ and the Conditions of employment of other servants of the EU, as well as the Code of Good Administrative Behaviour ⁽³⁾.

These rules aim at ensuring the independence, impartiality, objectivity and loyalty of Commission Members and staff members in the exercise of their duties.

In March 2025, responding to the start deterioration of the EU’s security context, the Commission proposed the European Readiness 2030 Plan ⁽⁴⁾ which includes the Security Action for Europe ⁽⁵⁾ (SAFE) instrument to enable urgent and major public investments in the European defence industry, to rapidly increase its production capacity, improve the timely availability of defence products, and speed-up its adjustment to structural changes.

The SAFE regulation includes strict eligibility rules aimed at ensuring security of supply and strategic autonomy of the European defence industry.

¹ ¹‘Un ‘Américain’ infiltré au cœur du lobby européen de la défense’ [‘an American intruder at the heart of the European defence lobby’], 18 March 2025, Matthieu Fauroux, https://www.lalettre.fr/fr/entreprises_defense-et-aeronautique/2025/03/18/un-america-infiltrer-au-coeur-du-lobby-europeen-de-la-defense,110388728-eve

² ²Feedback from: the Aerospace, Security and Defence Industries Association of Europe (ASD), 6 February 2024, https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13928-European-Defence-Fund-interim-evaluation/F3453543_en

³ ³‘Ursula von der Leyen says EUR 150bn EU defence loans should be spent in Europe’, Henry Foy, Andy Bounds and Paola Tamma in Brussels, Leila Abboud in Paris and Amy Kazmin in Rome, 11 March 2025, <https://www.ft.com/content/c20530ca-1b31-46ce-bf90-16fc45cc0b62>

⁴ ⁴Press statement by President von der Leyen on the defence package, 4 March 2025, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_25_673

⁽¹⁾ https://transparency-register.europa.eu/searchregister-or-update/organisation-detail_en?id=87564644126-75.

⁽²⁾ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/1962/31\(1\)/2021-01-01/eng](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/1962/31(1)/2021-01-01/eng).

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2024/3083/oj/eng>.

⁽⁴⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_793.

⁽⁵⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/1106/oj/eng>.