

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001317/25
to the Commission**

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(31 March 2025)

Subject: Russian drone flyover of Italian JRC site in Ispra

According to press reports, a Russian-made drone is said to have flown over the site of the Commission's Joint Research Centre in Ispra (Varese) five times in the last month. One of the EU's main scientific hubs, the facility conducts strategic research, including in the field of drone-related security. The site is also just a short distance away from sensitive facilities, such as that of defence contractor Leonardo.

The Milan public prosecutor's office will reportedly open a formal investigation into the matter, highlighting the sensitivity of the case from a security perspective. If reports are found to be true, the episode would be particularly significant as it could mean that — at a time when the geopolitical context calls for maximum vigilance — technological, scientific and national security are at risk.

In light of the above:

1. Is the Commission aware of the flyovers of the JRC site in Ispra and of any investigations being conducted by the relevant authorities?
2. What measures are currently in place to protect and ensure the physical and cybersecurity of the EU's strategic research centres?
3. Will it open a specific inquiry into the Ispra affair to check for any weaknesses and step up the existing security measures?

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Answer given by Ms Zaharieva on behalf of the European Commission
(23 May 2025)

The Commission has become aware through media reports that the Italian authorities have launched an investigation regarding a possible breach of the Italian airspace by drone(s).

The Commission is responsible for the security of the Joint Research Centre site in Ispra (Varese); in this, it collaborates with the host country authorities and exchanges relevant information.

The Commission has not observed any violation by drones of the no-fly zone above said site, nor is it aware of any related specific security threat.

The security management system of the Commission encompasses the identification of threats, assessment and mitigation of risks to the Commission staff, assets and information.

It includes people, information, physical facilities and technology, through the development and implementation of policies and procedures for all its sites. These are regularly reviewed.

In view of the above, the Commission is not opening a specific inquiry, nor changing its existing security measures.
