

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003832/25
to the Commission
Marc Botenga (The Left)
(1 October 2025)**

Subject: Requests for the transfer of ownership of results by non-EU parent entities under the European Defence Fund

In its answer to Written Question E-003011/2025 ⁽¹⁾, the Commission claims that the safeguards applicable to projects funded by the European Defence Fund (EDF) ensure that non-EU parent entities cannot access or exploit the technologies or results developed through EDF-funded actions. However, the Commission also reiterates that the transfer of ownership of results of EDF-funded actions outside the EU is possible only after prior notification to the Commission.

In the light of the above:

1. Has the Commission received any such requests for the transfer of ownership of results outside the EU in regard to the advanced capabilities and certification for tactical unmanned aerial vehicle systems (ACTUS) project?
2. Does the Commission have to approve these transfer requests?
3. Does the Commission evaluate such transfer requests according to EU obligations under international law?

Submitted: 1.10.2025

**Answer given by Mr Kubilius on behalf of the European Commission
(12 December 2025)**

In accordance with Article 23(4) of the European Defence Fund (EDF) Regulation ⁽¹⁾, the Commission shall assess whether a transfer of ownership to a non-associated third country or non-associated third country entity contravenes the security and defence interests of the EU and its Member States, or the objectives set out in Article 3 of the EDF Regulation. Where such a transfer of ownership contravenes the security and defence interests, the support provided from the Fund shall be reimbursed.

The Commission has in place a mechanism to assess whether a transfer of ownership to a non-associated third country or non-associated third country entity contravenes the security and defence interests of the EU and its Member States, or the objectives set out in Article 3 of the EDF Regulation.

Notifications made under Article 23(4) of the EDF Regulation are not meant to be public. Neither is the reply of the Commission to the entity notifying the transfer of ownership. A request for information from a third party on the existence of notifications cannot result in such notifications made public without the consent of the recipient of the EU funding.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-003011-ASW_EN.html.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/697/oj/eng>.