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Answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the European Commission
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Recent drone-related incidents affecting the EU's internal security – from attacks and disruptions targeting critical infrastructure to other malicious uses – underline the urgency of strengthening the EU collective preparedness and response. Regarding the Da-Jiang Innovations (DJI) geo-fencing service, Member States have suspended its use due to inconsistencies identified between the manufacturer's mapping data and the officially established unmanned aircraft system (UAS) geographical zones within the EU, which may entail both safety and security risks. When operating in the open category, all unmanned aircraft bearing a class identification label are required, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/945¹, to be equipped with a geo-awareness function that provides timely warnings to the remote pilot when the aircraft is approaching a UAS geographical zone.

The challenges posed by drones cut across multiple domains: the protection of European critical infrastructure and public spaces; aviation security; the fight against hybrid threats; the surveillance and safeguarding of EU's external borders; the prevention and investigation of terrorism and organised crime; as well as the preservation of Europe's technological sovereignty and defence capabilities. All this requires a unified and strategic response at EU level. The Commission is therefore working on an action plan which will cover the multidimensional aspects of drone security. Its objective will be to enhance EU's preparedness to prevent impactful incidents, detect better malicious activities and deploy the right capacities to effectively tackle the threats, leveraging technology to protect EU's border, critical infrastructures and public spaces.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32019R0945>.