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Answer given by Mr Kubilius
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.4.2026)

The EU position on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) at the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on LAWS at the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) is developed by the EU in close consultation with Member States. The EU presents its position at the GGE on LAWS. The GGE on LAWS, which began in 2014, is expected to present a recommendation on LAWS to the 2026 November CCW Review Conference.

The EU position at the GGE on LAWS is developed in cooperation between EU institutions and Member States, in line with the EU Treaty and its provisions on the Common foreign and security policy, which is agreed by unanimity by Member States.

The EU is founded on the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law. These principles align with EU's commitment to the promotion and respect of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

The respect of IHL obligations and the ratification of related international conventions remains the competence of Member States.

The European defence industrial programmes do not fund actions related to defence products that are prohibited by applicable international law. The programmes, moreover, lay down specific provisions regarding lethal autonomous weapons. The European Defence Fund¹ specifically bans the EU funding of lethal autonomous weapons without the possibility of human control over the selection and engagement decisions when carrying out strikes against humans. In addition, the European Defence Industry Programme² cannot fund defence products which are prohibited by applicable international law, nor lethal autonomous systems that operate outside a responsible chain of human command and control or cannot comply with the principles of IHL.

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

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/2643/oj/eng>.