

EN

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Answer given by Mr Kubilius  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(27.3.2025)

The Commission does not have any official information of an agreement and cannot comment, as a matter of principle, on a purported agreement between a Member State and a commercial satellite network operator. The EU strives for leadership in strategic technology and to boost its tech sovereignty. It is at the discretion of Member States to determine how to manage their national secure communication and the degree of reliance on non-EU solutions. As far as exchanges of EU classified information between the Commission and its Member States are concerned, these must comply with the security requirements set in the Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444<sup>1</sup>.

The Commission cannot speculate on the characteristics of a hypothetical procurement for which specific elements are conjectural. Any procurement falling within the scope of the EU Financial Regulation<sup>2</sup> is subject to the relevant provisions of the EU procurement rules stated therein, depending on and in accordance with the specific elements of the procurement in question.

The objective of the EU's secure connectivity programme infrastructure for resilience, interconnectivity and security by satellite (IRIS<sup>2</sup>) established in Regulation (EU) 588/2023<sup>3</sup> is to provide secure connectivity services to the EU and its Member States, as well as broadband connectivity for governmental authorities, private companies and European citizens, while ensuring high-speed internet. The IRIS<sup>2</sup> infrastructure is expected to be operational by 2030. In the meantime, in line with the Space programme regulation<sup>4</sup>, the Commission is currently deploying a pooling and sharing scheme of governmental satellite communications.

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information.

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general EU budget.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 79, 17.3.2023, p. 1-20.

<sup>4</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/696/oj/eng>