

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-002314/26  
to the Commission  
Liudas Mažylis (PPE)  
(4 June 2026)**

*Subject:* Drones pose an air threat to Lithuania and the entire eastern flank of the EU

Lithuania is increasingly confronted with unauthorised flying objects — drones, which pose a threat to residents, critical infrastructure and national security. 20 May 2026 Another incident was recorded in Lithuania, when a drone violated Lithuanian airspace, the NATO air policing mission was activated, and air traffic was temporarily suspended in Vilnius. Similar incidents have been recorded in other eastern flank states, including Estonia, Latvia, Poland, and Romania. This shows the weakest areas — insufficient detection of small objects, fragmented coordination, and insufficient anti-drone capabilities at the border.

Could the Commission answer the following questions:

1. What specific actions is the Commission taking to strengthen the detection and neutralisation capabilities of Lithuania and other EU eastern flank states for small and other drones?
2. How will it be ensured that EU anti-drone initiatives, SAFE funding and the Eastern Flank Monitoring System translate into real capabilities at the border?
3. Does the Commission envisage closer coordination of the EU, NATO and Ukrainian experience in developing a common European anti-drone protection system?

Submitted: 4.6.2026

**Answer given by Mr Kubilius on behalf of the European Commission  
(24 July 2026)**

The Commission is improving the EU's ability to detect, track, identify and mitigate drones, including in Lithuania and the Eastern flank. The action plan on Drone and Counter-Drone Security <sup>(1)</sup> provides a strategic framework for preparedness, detection and response.

In its Defence Readiness chapter, the Plan sets out three lines of action. First, supporting faster acquisition of capabilities by Member States, including Member State-led capability coalitions.

The Security Action for Europe <sup>(2)</sup> makes available up to EUR 150 billion in loans for common procurement, including of counterdrone systems, while the European Defence Industry Programme <sup>(3)</sup> supports collaborative purchasing and reinforces the European defence industry, including through European Defence Projects of Common Interest, such as Eastern Flank Watch, Drone and Counter Drone European Resolve or EU Federated Integrated Air and Missile Defence flagships.

Second, the Commission aims to turn innovation and operational lessons, especially from Ukraine, into European capabilities. The European Defence Fund <sup>(4)</sup>, the EU Defence Innovation Scheme <sup>(5)</sup> and the future Programme for Agile and Rapid Defence Innovation <sup>(6)</sup> support innovative drone-related solutions.

Third, the Commission is strengthening industrial resilience and production capacity by addressing bottlenecks and reinforcing EU supply chains.

The Commission also promotes closer cooperation with Ukraine and ensures complementarity with NATO. Initiatives such as BraveTechEU <sup>(7)</sup> and the EU-Ukraine Drone Alliance will link operational lessons, innovation and industrial delivery, while maintaining interoperability with NATO.

After the Commission President's recent visit to the region, the Commission is preparing an assessment of counter-drone and early-warning systems across the Baltics to identify gaps and accelerate support as needed.

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<sup>(1)</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52026DC0081&qid=1782298454764>.

<sup>(2)</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/1106/oj/eng>.

<sup>(3)</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32025R2643&qid=1395839306852>.

<sup>(4)</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/697/oj/eng>.

<sup>(5)</sup> [https://eudis.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://eudis.europa.eu/index_en).

<sup>(6)</sup> [https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/programme-agile-and-rapid-defence-innovation\\_en](https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/programme-agile-and-rapid-defence-innovation_en).

<sup>(7)</sup> [https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/bravetech-eu\\_en](https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/bravetech-eu_en).