

Question for written answer E-008919/2015
to the Council
Rule 130
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Subject: Common position on the use of armed drones

The announcement by the German, Italian and French defence ministers of the launch of a project to develop a European reconnaissance drone is good news for advocates of European autonomy in the security and defence sphere. The project mirrors the Franco-British partnership established in October 2014 with a view to developing a combat drone.

The French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian has described drones, which are certainly indispensable items of military equipment, as a 'key capability'. The way they are employed is giving rise to legal and ethical misgivings, however. Given the risk of collateral damage, many people are questioning the practice of using remotely piloted drones to kill targeted individuals. Indeed, Parliament voiced such concerns in a resolution adopted on 27 February 2014.

The decision to develop eurodrones thus offers an opportunity finally to establish a common position on the use of armed drones in operations outside the EU.

What approach does the Council intend to take on this issue?