

**Question for written answer E-011745/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: New satellite: Quantum

Quantum, currently being developed by Airbus Defence and Space engineers and staff, is the new flagship of the French satellite industry. It will be the first satellite that can be reconfigured from the Earth, which means it will no longer be necessary to send another unit into space to cover a different part of the globe. Quantum will thus be easily repositionable and capable of covering the whole planet through its network antennas, which can be reconfigured in orbit through the use of software. It is set to become the latest technological marvel performed by Airbus Group, following Ka-Sat and AlphaSat – two satellites launched by Ariane rockets.

The satellite will be built under a partnership between the public and private sectors, bringing together the European Space Agency and Eutelsat – the European satellite operator responsible for overseeing and marketing the project.

1. Does the Commission have any decision-making power over determining how satellites put into orbit in cooperation with the European Space Agency should be used?
2. If so, will this new unit be used for supplying military and anti-terrorist intelligence?