

**Question for written answer E-013960/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Elena Valenciano (S&D)**

Subject: Impact on budget deficit of Spanish Government's purchase of four military drones

The US Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) has officially announced – before any official statement by the Spanish Government – that it has approved the sale of four mission-ready MQ-9 Reaper drones.

The deal will cost between EUR 220 and 270 million, according to different sources. The portion of the Spanish budget earmarked for this type of equipment will now be tied up until 2020, and even then will not cover the total cost of the drones.

The planes – built by the American company General Atomics, linked to the Spanish group SENER – were reportedly bought for 30% more than the competing offer.

Setting aside the political and moral debate on the use of drones, and substantiated media reports suggesting the influence of vested interests in the deal:

Does the Commission know what the final cost of the deal will be?

Were public procurement regulations complied with?

What impact will this deal have on Spain meeting its budget deficit targets, when funding for essential public services such as health, education and social welfare is being heavily cut?