

Question for written answer E-005864/2017
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Artificial intelligence in the weapons sector

On 21 August 2017, 117 company founders in the robotics and artificial intelligence sector wrote an open letter to the UN calling for the banning of autonomous weapons. They were alarmed at the risks posed by 'killer robots'. Whereas today weapons are controlled, if only remotely, by humans, artificial intelligence would enable weapons to determine, on the basis of algorithms, when to attack people or buildings.

The risks mentioned include the pirating of these defence tools and cyber-attacks against their control systems. The experts therefore called for stricter regulations to forestall this risk.

A European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE) has been set up by the Commission to advise it on all ethical, social and fundamental rights issues which crop up in the development of science and new technologies. However, in response to a question [E-003747/17] of 6 June 2017 which highlighted the EGE's lack of involvement in research into the risks of artificial intelligence, the Commission noted that, with only 15 members, the EGE is 'not meant to have specific expertise in every area of human endeavour'.

In the light of the above, does the Commission propose to recruit additional human resources for the EGE?