

**Question for written answer E-010667/2012  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Legal status of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) registered in or flying over EU territory

A clear distinction must be made between models and UAVs. Given that UAVs may also be made using nanotechnology, it should not be solely the device's dimensions that determine its classification, but above all its intended purpose. Another issue is contact with UAVs. In military applications, UAVs are usually controlled by a ground-based operator, and loss of contact leads to the immediate destruction of the device. However, rules – which are essential – have not been established concerning civilian applications and use in environmental monitoring. Furthermore, if it is decided that civilian UAVs must have an operator, what type of certificate or licence should such a specialist hold? Will a pilot's licence be required, or will standard training be sufficient?

With regard to UAVs from outside the EU that use European airspace, it must be ascertained whether the UAV is also an aircraft, albeit a pilotless aircraft, in which case it would have to meet the same requirements that ultralight aircraft have to in order to enter European airspace.

How should the EU and the Member States classify UAVs? Is there an opinion or are there guidelines on this matter?