

**Question for written answer E-005927/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Norbert Neuser (S&D) and Knut Fleckenstein (S&D)

Subject: European directive for unmanned aircraft - Euro Hawk drone

The German Federal Ministry of Defence has announced that it is dispensing with the Euro Hawk drone on account of an inadequate approval procedure.

Among the reasons cited by the Federal Ministry of Defence for dispensing with the unmanned reconnaissance aircraft was the absence of European directives on the operation of remote-controlled aircraft in civil airspace over Europe.

1. What stage has the Commission reached in drawing up Europe-wide directives for unmanned aircraft?
2. When can we expect the EU to adopt directives for unmanned aircraft?
3. How do drones currently operate in the airspace above Europe, even though there are as yet no uniform directives?
4. Drones can supposedly operate with special approvals in airspace that is restricted specifically for this purpose. Is the Commission or are European authorities involved in issuing special approvals?
5. If so, can special approvals also be issued for deployment above densely populated areas in Europe?
6. What potential risks posed by drones does the Commission see with regard to civil aviation in Europe?
7. Was the German Federal Ministry of Defence in contact with the Commission and the relevant European authorities in connection with the acquisition and approval of the Euro Hawk drone?
8. Have approvals for the Euro Hawk drone been issued or promised by the Commission or the relevant European authorities?