**Question for written answer E-004620/2020**
**to the Commission**
Rule 138
**Virginie Joron** (ID)

Subject:     Exclusion of France from European supercomputer projects it finances

Digital sovereignty is based on three inseparable pillars: computing power, control of our data, secure connectivity. The Brussels Commission has recently launched a programme to build supercomputers (petascale and exascale). Between EUR 1 billion and 3 billion will be invested over time, notably via the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking [1] . This 'European sovereignty' is being jeopardised right from the first call for proposals (closing date 15 September 2020) since three Turkish and British companies are among the 15 undertakings which have expressed an interest and are eligible, despite Brexit and Erdogan's attacks on the Greek border [2]

France and its engineers are the great forgotten in this plan: the eight supercomputers will be set up in Kajaani (Finland, socialist government), Bologna (Italy, socialist), Minho (Portugal, socialist), Maribor (Slovenia, centre-left), Barcelona (Spain, socialist), Sofia (Bulgaria, right-wing), Ostrava (Czech Republic, Renew) [3] and Bissen (Luxembourg, home country of Mr Juncker, President of the Commission [4] ).

Why has the Commission chosen to install the supercomputers predominantly in countries governed by socialists or in the tax haven that is Luxembourg?

Why has the Commission still not excluded Turkish companies from this kind of European project?

Why was no French site [5] chosen even though French taxes will finance these projects to a large extent and even though CEA (TGCC) in Bruyères-le-Châtel, Idris-CNRS [6] in Orsay and Cines [7] in Montpellier have a huge amount of know-how in this area?

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[1]    https://eurohpc-ju.europa.eu/index.html
[2]    https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/interested-org-list/42889199https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf
[3]    https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_19_2868
[4]    https://paperjam.lu/article/bourgmestre-bissen-quitte-csv
[5]    http://www.genci.fr/en/our-computers
[6]    Institute for Development and Resources in Scientific Informatics
[7]    National Computer Centre for Higher Education