

**Question for written answer E-001899/2021/rev.1
to the Council**

Rule 138

Mathilde Androuët (ID)

Subject: Legitimacy of participation of three third-country NATO members in the Permanent Structured Cooperation project on military mobility

Planning the 'Europe of defence', which aims to establish a future defence instrument, is overseen by a number of EU institutions and bodies, including the Council¹, the European Defence Agency, the European External Action Service and the Commission. On 31 March 2021², however, EU Member State representatives on the Political and Security Committee (PSC) recommended that the Council take a decision endorsing the involvement of three third-country NATO members – the US, Canada and Norway – in the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) project on military mobility. The PSC has stated that 'no classified or sensitive [European Union] information will be disclosed' in the course of the project, which 'does not involve purchasing arms, researching and developing defence capabilities, or using and exporting arms, capabilities or technologies'. At the same time, the aim of PESCO (Article 42 of the Treaty on European Union) is to bolster the industrial base of the European defence sector while fostering the EU's strategic autonomy. What exactly are the Council's reasons for involving Canada and the US in this project? How does including these countries, particularly the US, fit in with the declared objective of European empowerment and autonomy?

¹ European Union Military Committee

² Europe Daily Bulletin No 12692