

Question for written answer E-002943/2022
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Commission in Brussels is paying foreigners for protection

After entrusting its cloud services to Amazon, the Commission has awarded a contract worth EUR 1.2 billion over eight years to British Telecom to manage 'TESTA', its service for communicating confidential information between EU Member State administrations¹.

In addition to IT security, physical security is also outsourced to non-European, international firms. The US security company G4S 'provides security' for the Commission's headquarters in Brussels². According to a previous reply from the Commission, a budget of approximately EUR 50 million per year is earmarked for the security of its sites in Brussels and Luxembourg³.

It is worth noting that G4S's Belgian subsidiary agreed in 2021 to pay USD 15 million to settle a US lawsuit over fraudulent tendering of contracts for the protection of US bases in Belgium⁴.

1. Did the Commission receive any offers from genuinely European companies in its calls for tender for contracts to provide security for its offices in Europe or its delegations?
2. What percentage of the security budget is allocated to genuinely European companies by the Commission and its external action service, the EEAS?
3. What criteria define a European company?

¹ <https://www.politico.eu/article/outrage-eu-deal-uk-bt-confidential-network/>

² G4S has been taken over by the British company Allied Universal.

³ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-8-2018-004440-ASW_EN.html

⁴ <https://www.g4s.com/fr-be/media/newsroom/2021/06/25/belgium-enters-into-plea-agreement-with-the-us-department-of-justice-french>. On 3 August 2022, the Commission reportedly signed a new contract worth EUR 443 million, of which G4S received EUR 113 million, despite the recent fraud (<https://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:422312-2022:TEXT:EN:HTML>).