

**Question for written answer E-000465/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Engin Eroglu (Renew)**

Subject: Sighting and investigation of spy balloons in EU airspace

On 5 February 2023, a suspected Chinese spy balloon was shot down by a US fighter jet. During a press conference on 8 February 2023, Pentagon Spokesperson Brigadier General Pat Ryder stated that the balloon was, according to the US authorities, part of a global spy programme and that similar balloons had also been spotted elsewhere in recent years, including over Europe<sup>1</sup>.

1. Does the Commission have information on sightings of such balloons in EU airspace?
2. Is it looking into or planning to look into what information has been obtained with these balloons?
3. Is it taking measures or planning to take measures to prevent spy balloons from entering EU airspace in future?

Submitted: 15.2.2023

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.defense.gov/News/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/3293101/pentagon-press-secretary-air-force-brig-gen-pat-ryder-holds-an-on-camera-press/>