

**Question for written answer E-001898/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Özlem Demirel (The Left)

Subject: European Defence Fund – ethical checks

Projects funded under the European Defence Fund (EDF) calls for proposals undergo an ethical review, which includes a self-assessment carried out by applicants and an ethical screening carried out by the Commission and supported by experts. According to Article 7(4) of the regulation establishing the EDF¹, proposals not considered ethically acceptable must be rejected. In view of the foregoing:

1. Has a project ever been deemed ethically unacceptable and therefore modified, suspended or rejected? If so, how many times has this happened (please detail for each instance the reasons and specific concerns raised, the name of the entity that raised these concerns, the stage of the project when this occurred, and what final decisions and follow-up actions were taken and by whom)?
2. Can the Commission confirm which experts support it in conducting ethical screenings, including their full name, country of origin, area of expertise, affiliations and projects reviewed?
3. Does the Commission ensure that projects funded under the EDF calls are in line with legal obligations under international law, in particular, that they are compliant with Article 36 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions regarding the development of new weapons? If so, please outline the specific steps taken in this regard.

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¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/697 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the European Defence Fund and repealing Regulation (EU) 2018/1092 (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 149).