

Question for written answer E-002043/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
David McAllister (PPE)

Subject: Launcher facilities in the EU

Under Regulation (EU) 2023/588 establishing the Union Secure Connectivity Programme for the period 2023-2027 (IRIS²), space assets of government infrastructure may be launched from the territory of a third country 'only in justified exceptional circumstances' (Article 5(5)).

In addition to the space centre in French Guiana, the European Union is currently supporting programmes in Shetland (United Kingdom) and Andøya (Norway). Both are outside the territory of the EU. The EU spaceport near Kiruna in Sweden is in EU territory, but rockets launched from there must necessarily fly over Norwegian territory. This requires Norway's consent.

- (1) Will the sites in Shetland and Andøya be in future considered 'justified' as 'exceptional circumstances' according to Regulation (EU) 2023/588?
- (2) What view does the Commission take of the planned floating spaceport in Germany's exclusive economic zone in the North Sea as a possibility for launching space assets of government infrastructure within the meaning of the aforementioned Regulation?

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