

**Question for written answer E-003647/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Marc Botenga (The Left), **Özlem Demirel** (The Left)

Subject: European Defence Fund EPC naval combat project: the design of a new flexible, interoperable, cyber-secured patrol corvette

The European Patrol Corvette (EPC) project, financed with EUR 60 million from the European Defence Fund, will design a new flexible, interoperable and cyber-secured naval patrol corvette.

The Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation (OCCAR), an intergovernmental organisation facilitating and managing collaborative arms programmes between several European countries, including Belgium and Germany, has signed the grant agreement for this project with its industrial partners.

Can the Commission:

1. State what force projection systems the European patrol corvettes will include?
2. Clarify if the final corvettes will incorporate artificial intelligence (AI) technologies and list the main activities that will be addressed through the use of AI / machine learning (ML) / deep learning systems?
3. Share the respective EU-contribution for each participant in the project under the OCCAR agreement?

Submitted: 13.12.2023