

**Question for written answer E-002314/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Lynn Boylan (The Left)

Subject: Political contribution of the Oireachtas Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform and Taoiseach to COM(2023)0406

In September, the Oireachtas Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform and Taoiseach published a political contribution to Draft amending budget No 3 to the General Budget 2023 (COM(2023)0406). The Committee raised key procedural and content issues regarding the Act in Support of Ammunition Production (ASAP) Regulation. The Committee highlighted that Article 41.2 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union prohibits expenditure from the general budget from having military or defence implications, except where agreed unanimously by the Council. The Committee further highlighted that it is inappropriate to subsidise the arms industry at a time when it is enjoying record profits. Companies supplying weapons to Israel were also identified as being in receipt of funding under ASAP.

1. Does the Commission agree that the use of the ordinary legislative procedure and qualified majority in the Council was inappropriate in this context?
2. What rationale exists for granting huge subsidies to the arms industry when it is making record profits, and does the Commission intend to propose a similar regulation to ASAP again?
3. Does the Commission utilise a screening process to ensure that companies in receipt of subsidies under ASAP are not providing weapons where they may be used in violation of international law, and what mechanisms are used for such screening?

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