

Question for written answer E-002665/2024/rev.1

to the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Rule 144

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Subject: Chinese combat drones used in war against Ukraine

European leaders have increasingly warned China against supplying arms and dual-use goods to Russia. According to Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) Josep Borrell, this would cross a ‘red line’. Citing intelligence sources, recent media reports claim that a Chinese factory is producing combat drones for Russia¹, and that Russia has launched an arms programme in China to develop and produce long-range combat drones for use in the war against Ukraine². VP/HR Borrell stresses that China is the main supplier of the dual-use goods and sensitive technologies that underpin Russia’s military-industrial base.

1. Are these reports true and, if so, what concrete consequences does the new VP/HR believe these reports will have on the EU’s relationship with China?
2. What measures will the new VP/HR take to prevent dual-use technologies or products from mainland China and Hong Kong entering Russia in the future?
3. How will the new VP/HR coordinate these measures with partner countries, for example the G7 countries, South Korea and Australia?

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¹ South China Morning Post (15 November 2024), EU has ‘conclusive’ proof of armed drones for Russia being made in China, <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3286819/eu-has-conclusive-proof-armed-drones-russia-being-made-china-sources>.

² Reuters (25 September 2024), Exclusive: Russia has secret war drones project in China, intel sources say, <https://www.reuters.com/world/russia-has-secret-war-drones-project-china-intel-sources-say-2024-09-25/>.