

**Question for written answer E-005668/2018
to the Council**

Rule 130

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Subject: A European defence system under US supervision

European leaders are following schizophrenic policies due to being unable to provide a clear definition of the borders, resources and objectives for a European defence system.

All attempts to enable Europe to make autonomous decisions are being impeded by the European Treaties, in particular Article 42(2) of the Treaty on European Union granting the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) a central role in European defence. The European plan is unreadable due to the duplication of structures (with, for example, the almost simultaneous introduction of a European intervention initiative, a military-industrial collaboration between European countries, and sustained, structured collaboration).

The Union has blundered into a stalemate. While European defence funds are being created to encourage a European preference, several European leaders are reaffirming their commitment to NATO by pushing for the integration of the Ukraine or Georgia; Belgium announces its decision to purchase 34 US F-35s over French Rafales to update its fleet of fighter jets; Sweden chooses to equip itself with the US Patriot air defence system over the superior French-Italian STAMP/T system developed by MBDA and Thalès.

What is the Council's opinion of these choices?

Is Europe planning its defence as an instrument for independence or rather is it doomed to stay under NATO and US supervision?