

Question for written answer E-000092/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: The impact of Starlink on the European satellite internet service market

The EU has launched the IRIS² project to provide secure and resilient satellite connectivity. The SpaceX/Starlink constellation is a non-EU firm providing satellite internet service. It currently represents a near monopoly of around 6 500 satellites in low Earth orbit, with plans under way to add tens of thousands more. Recent press reports allude to ongoing negotiations between some Member States and SpaceX/Starlink with a view to concluding multi-year contracts for connectivity services.

Against this background:

1. How does the Commission intend to proceed in the event that some Member States decide to enter into multi-year contracts with SpaceX/Starlink, which, taking advantage of its current dominant position, could pre-empt the potential market for an emerging European project like IRIS²?
2. In light of the Union's strategic goal of strengthening its digital sovereignty, ensuring strategic autonomy and reducing dependence on third countries, would the Commission not consider it more appropriate for Member States to rely on European projects such as IRIS²?
3. As satellite communication networks share the critical and sensitive nature of 5G infrastructure, is the Commission considering the development of a framework similar to the 5G security toolbox for this satellite technology to address security risks, fostering a coordinated approach to digital sovereignty?

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