

Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2018/2752(RSP)	Procedure completed
Resolution on autonomous weapon systems		
Subject 6.10.03 Armaments control, non-proliferation nuclear weapons		

Key players	
European Parliament	

Key events			
11/09/2018	Debate in Parliament		
12/09/2018	Results of vote in Parliament		
12/09/2018	Decision by Parliament	T8-0341/2018	Summary
12/09/2018	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2018/2752(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 132-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway					
Motion for a resolution		B8-0308/2018	11/09/2018	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0309/2018	11/09/2018	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0355/2018	11/09/2018	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0359/2018	11/09/2018	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0360/2018	11/09/2018	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0361/2018	11/09/2018	EP	
Motion for a resolution		B8-0362/2018	11/09/2018	EP	
Joint motion for resolution		RC-B8-0308/2018	11/09/2018		

Resolution on autonomous weapon systems

The European Parliament adopted by 566 votes to 47 with 73 abstentions a resolution on autonomous weapon systems.

The resolution was tabled by the EPP, S&D, ALDE, Greens/EFA, GUE/NGL, and EFDD groups.

Parliament called for the adoption of an EU common position on lethal autonomous weapon systems that ensures meaningful human control over the critical functions of weapon systems, prior to the November 2018 meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. It noted that an unknown number of countries, publicly funded industries and private industries are reportedly developing lethal autonomous weapon systems, which are weapon systems without meaningful human control over the critical functions of selecting and attacking individual targets. Such weapons systems range all the way from missiles capable of selective targeting to learning machines with cognitive skills to decide whom, when and where to fight. Parliament considered that human involvement and oversight are central to the lethal decision-making process, and stressed the fundamental importance of preventing the production of any lethal autonomous weapon system lacking human control in critical functions such as target selection and engagement. It also noted that such systems could malfunction on account of badly written code or a cyber-attack perpetrated by an enemy state or a non-state actor. In August 2017, 116 founders of leading international robotics and artificial intelligence companies sent an open letter to the UN calling on governments to prevent an arms race in these weapons.

Parliament recalled its position of 13 March 2013 on the Regulation on the European Defence Industrial Development Programme, and underlined its willingness to adopt a similar position in the context of the upcoming defence research programme, the defence industrial development programme and other relevant features of the post-2020 European Defence Fund.

It underlined the fact that none of the weapons or weapon systems currently operated by EU forces are lethal autonomous weapon systems. Members called for the expansion of the EUs role in global disarmament and non-proliferation efforts, and stressed the need for the EU to speak in relevant forums with one voice and share best practices on the matter of lethal autonomous weapon systems, and garner input from experts, academics and civil society.