

Papers

<https://paxforpeace.nl/media/download/pax-report-military-drones-and-the-eu.pdf> (2019)

Some remarks:

- The most ambitious plan to date is the European Defence Fund (EDF), described as a “game-changer for strategic autonomy and the competitiveness of Europe’s defence industry”.¹⁰² Part of the EU budget for 2021-2027, over EUR 13 billion, will be allocated by the EDF for “investments in state-of-the-art and fully interoperable technology and equipment in areas such as encrypted software and drone technology.”

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/2021-04-30-military-drones-europe-do-rsey-amaral.pdf> (2021)

Some remarks:

Table 1. Classification of drones⁴⁶

Class	Typical capabilities	Ordnance
Class I (<150 kg) Subcategories: micro, mini and small drones	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Endurance: 1–3 hours• Maximum range: approx. 80 km• Payload capacity: 5 kg• Top speed: 100 km/hour	Generally unarmed ⁴⁷ and designed to carry out reconnaissance and surveillance missions.
Class II (150–600 kg) Tactical drones	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Endurance: 10 hours• Maximum range: 100–200 km• Payload capacity: up to 70 kg• Top speed: 200 km/hour	Some models can be equipped with lightweight ordnance, typically air-to-ground guided missiles.
Class III (>600 kg) Subcategories: medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE); high-altitude, long-endurance (HALE); and strike/ combat drones	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Endurance: up to 24 hours (or more)• Maximum range: depending on the communications equipment used, some Class III drones can be operated at a range of several thousand km• Payload capacity: several hundred kg• Top speed: up to 300 km/hour (or more)	Although many of these models are capable of carrying a mix of weapons, some are designed solely for intelligence-gathering.

- On the question of accountability for serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law, the EU believes in strengthening international courts, tribunals and mechanisms which serve this purpose as well as the promotion of the rule of law,

especially in conflict and post conflict situations. In our view, peace and justice go hand in hand. EU statement, 2018117

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2022/09/16/lithuania-small-drones/> (2022)

Reconnaissance drones

<https://eurasianimes.com/switchblade-drones-after-super-success-in-ukraine-war-lithuania/> (2022)

Switchblade 600 drones. The contract, announced by the Lithuanian Ministry of National Defense (MND), is projected to be worth €45 million (US \$48 million). The US government and the Lithuanian MND's procurement branch, Defense Materiel Agency, signed the agreement earlier this week.