

**Matthias Oel**  
**Director**  
**European Commission**  
**Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs**  
**Directorate B: Borders, Interoperability and Innovation**

Warsaw, 20 October 2021

Our ref: SAM/FSC/LUBA/10563a/2021

**Subject: Written question number E-004149/2021: Incidents involving Frontex drones**

Dear Mr Oel,

With reference to the Written Question E-004149/2021, submitted by the Honourable Member of the European Parliament Özlem Demirel to the European Commission, referring to Incidents involving Frontex drones, please find below our reply.

#### **QUESTION 1**

**How many flight hours has Frontex logged for the ‘Heron 1’ drone it operates in Malta, and is it likely to extend its contract with Airbus?**

Under Specific Order 1 Frontex contracted ADAS to deliver 1 200 flight hours.

Under Specific Order 2 Frontex contracted ADAS to deliver for 1 870 flight hours as soon as the contracted hours are delivered under SO 1.

#### **QUESTION 2**

**What in-flight incidents (e.g. engine, navigation and control system or transponder failures, or other technical problems on board) have occurred and how serious were they?**

Frontex has no record of aviation incident occurred while performing the regular operational activity on behalf of Frontex from Malta. The identified technical issues reported to Frontex were minor and cannot be recorded as an occurrence that might have an impact on flight safety.

#### **QUESTION 3**

**When and where did these incidents occur, what steps has Airbus since taken, and what do Frontex and the Commission make of these measures?**

Reiterating the answer to the question above, Frontex has no record of an aviation incident being reported in relation to the HERON1 platform in use by FRONTEX.

Nevertheless, FRONTEX puts the topic of safety as a top priority and, every week over dedicated meetings, Frontex asks Airbus to be permanently informed of all technical processes carried out by the contractor that may have an implication on the normal operational implementation.

I remain at your disposal should you need any further clarifications.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'F' followed by a horizontal line.

Fabrice Leggeri  
*Executive Director*

