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E-002403/2018

Answer given by Mr Avramopoulos  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(13.9.2018)

1) According to information provided by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (the Agency), it plans to carry out a maritime border surveillance trial with long endurance remotely piloted aircraft systems in the course of 2018. The trial forms part of the assessment and evaluation of such platforms for border control purposes with a specific focus on their ability to deliver surveillance services in a regular, reliable, and cost-efficient way. The trial will be carried out under the responsibility of Greece and Italy.

2) According to information provided by the Agency, Leonardo S.p.a will provide a small medium altitude long endurance remotely piloted aircraft (payload of at least 100 kilograms). The value of the contract with this provider is EUR 1 697 000. Israel Aerospace Industries will provide a medium altitude long endurance remotely piloted aircraft (payload of at least 150 kilograms). The value of the contract with that provider is EUR 4 750 000.

3) Unmanned aerial vehicles have been provided by Italy and funded in common by Member States for a trial period of 240 hours that ended on 24 May 2018.