

**Question for written answer E-002403/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Sabine Lösing (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Frontex long-range drones for border surveillance

The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) intends to start patrolling the Mediterranean using long-range drones as of this spring. Two contracts for different sized MALE-class aircraft have already been signed and flights are to begin this quarter. The aim is to achieve a total of 900 flight hours over 120 calendar days. Similar operations were carried out recently as part of the EUNAVFOR MED operation SOPHIA using Italian Air Force Predator drones.

- 1) Which EU Member State will be responsible for carrying out the flights and what will be the role of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)?
- 2) What drones will be used, from which manufacturers, and at what cost?
- 3) How many flight hours did the Italian Air Force make available to the EUNAVFOR MED military operation SOPHIA with their unarmed Predator drones, and what additional flights are planned or agreed?