Question for written answer E-002653/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Özlem Demirel (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Lie detectors in the area of border security

'Automated Virtual Agent for Truth Assessments in Real-Time' (AVATAR) is a biometric-based 'lie detection technology' which is being developed and marketed by the University of Arizona. It records facial expressions in high-resolution videos, as well as voice, body and eye movements, which are analysed by artificial intelligence. The research initiatives were supported by the US Department of Defense, the US Department of Homeland Security and the EU Border Agency, Frontex. The Commission is also testing such lie detectors for border control in the context of the EU security research project 'iBorderCtrl'.

In which biometric-based research activities into 'lie detection' have EU agencies been involved thus far, and how much has the Commission spent on such projects?

Who participated in the research activities and who is authorised to market the systems developed?

What information can the Commission provide on the accuracy of the systems, and how prone are they to error?