

**Question for written answer E-004082/2019/rev.1
to the Council**
Rule 138
Özlem Demirel (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Crash of a drone on an anti-smuggling mission over Libya

On 20 November 2019 a Predator-type drone belonging to the Italian Air Force went down over Libya. According to the Italian Ministry of Defence, it was involved in anti-smuggling operations as part of the national 'Mare Sicuro' mission. The incident happened a long way from the Libyan coast. The drone had been flying over the former district of Tarhuna wa-Msallata. The following day (21 November 2019) a drone of the same type belonging to the US Air Force also went down. According to the US Defence Department, the drone had been on patrol over Tripoli to monitor the security situation and violent extremist activity. Both incidents might have been caused by new techniques for 'spoofing' or jamming.

What is the scope of the deployment of Predator-type drones belonging to the Italian Air Force in the EU's military operation in the Southern Central Mediterranean, and how many flying hours do they complete?

Does the Council know whether individual flights by the Italian Predator-type drones as part of the EUNAVFOR MED Operation SOPHIA are concurrently also part of 'Mare Sicuro'? Is intelligence gained from the national mission fed into Operation SOPHIA?

Was the by the Italian Air Force 'Predator' flight on 20 November 2019 operated as part of Operation SOPHIA? Did the national mission receive intelligence from the flight?