

**Question for written answer E-000567/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Özlem Demirel** (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Crash of a long-range drone operated by EU agencies

On 8 January 2020, a long-range drone, which was performing surveillance of Greece's maritime borders on behalf of the European Maritime Safety Agency, crashed onto the runway at Tympaki airport in Crete. The Hermes 900 aircraft, which was being controlled by the Israeli manufacturer Elbit and the Portuguese main contractor CEiiA, suffered serious damage. The drone flights were being carried out for the EU border agency Frontex.

What preliminary or final findings does the Commission have concerning the cause of the crash, and who was controlling the drone at the time?

What damage did the crash cause and who is liable for it?

In which operational areas are Elbit drones currently being operated for EU agencies, and what further flights are planned for 2020?