

**Question for written answer E-005755/2020/rev.1  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Filip De Man (ID)**

Subject: Operating agreement between Frontex and Airbus-IAI on long-term surveillance of the Mediterranean Sea

Frontex has signed a contract with Airbus and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) concerning the operation of a long-term maritime air surveillance system for the Mediterranean Sea, namely the RPAS surveillance system for unmanned aircraft. According to Airbus, the service will be provided in Greece and then subsequently in Italy and Malta. The system can fly for over 24 hours and sends real-time images of the geographical areas being monitored.

1. How many unmanned aircraft will be purchased?
2. What is the value of this operating agreement?
3. Why is the service not being deployed to protect all the weak spots of the EU's external borders?