

**Question for written answer E-005756/2020/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. Why is a strategic activity such as the surveillance of the EU's external borders being entrusted to a non-EU company?
2. How many Frontex staff are being used full time to provide this service?
3. Does Frontex have plans to equip these unmanned aircraft with weapons at a later date?