

**Question for written answer E-002257/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Özlem Demirel** (The Left)

Subject: Biometric registration systems in the Western Balkan states

In its Conclusions of 5 June 2020, the Council underscored its intention to support the Western Balkan states in the development of interoperable systems for the biometric registration of asylum applicants and irregular migrants along the lines of the Eurodac data model, thereby rendering it compatible with EU systems.

1. The document entitled 'Ministry of the Interior Development Strategy from 2018 to 2023' produced by the Republic of Serbia in 2020 states that the country would transpose the Dublin and Eurodac regulations into its legislation two years before joining the EU. What is the legal basis for the inclusion of Serbia and potentially other Balkan states in Eurodac prior to EU accession?
2. On the basis of the agreements between Frontex and Albania and Montenegro, the agency is authorised to consult national databanks in both these countries for operational reasons or for return operations. With which EU databanks are the data retrieved by Frontex collated?
3. In Result 3 of the IPA-funded 'Regional support to protection-sensitive migration management in the Western Balkans and Turkey – Phase II' project, EU support is mentioned with regard to 'data gathering, analysis, coordination and transparency with regard to migration and asylum enhanced'. With what kind of data and to what ends does the EU plan to help the Balkan states with registration?