

**Question for written answer E-002455/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Özlem Demirel** (The Left)

Subject: Surveillance sensor technology of Frontex drones in the Central Mediterranean

The defence contractor Airbus was commissioned by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) to station at least two Heron 1-type Israeli drones on Malta. The first flights were on 3 May 2021. In the call for tenders, Frontex stipulated that the drones should carry electro-optical and infra-red sensors and a synthetic aperture radar (SAR) for surveillance which does not depend on daylight, and optionally equipment for localising mobile and satellite phones. They should also be equipped to detect transmissions from emergency devices fitted to newer life vests, to facilitate marine rescue.

1. What electro-optical and infra-red sensors are the Frontex drones equipped with, and what radar system do they carry?
2. Do the Heron 1 drones being used on behalf of Frontex have equipment for localising mobile and satellite phones, and if so, who is the manufacturer?
3. Are the drones equipped with emergency signal receivers and laser designators?