

**Question for written answer E-003296/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Özlem Demirel (The Left)

Subject: Use of the 'space data highway' by Frontex and the EMSA

As part of the Copernicus Earth Observation Programme, services are also provided to Frontex and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). Satellites in orbit can only transmit data back to earth if they are in contact with ground stations. In order to maintain communication at all times, therefore, Copernicus uses the European Data Relay System (EDRS), which was developed by the Airbus concern and whose laser satellites are marketed by the defence contractor as a 'space data highway'.

1. What information does the Commission have about the cost of developing the 'space data highway', and who met the costs involved?
2. Did Airbus receive EU funding for the development and operation of the 'space data highway' and, if so, are EU agencies therefore granted access to it at preferential rates?
3. Which EU agencies or other bodies use the 'space data highway', and how much use do Frontex and the EMSA make of it?