

**Question for written answer E-005322/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Özlem Demirel (The Left)

Subject: Extending cooperation in the ATLAS network

As of this year, the ATLAS network of police tactical units has a Support Office at Europol, meaning that the latter's European Counter Terrorism Centre coordinates cross-border operations by units from the Schengen Area countries and the United Kingdom. In order to share knowledge, individual ATLAS units join together in working groups on issues such as critical infrastructure, urban operational tactics, snipers, covert tactical action, negotiating skills, medical support and transport. In the innovations working group, the ATLAS network is testing new, special technologies such as explosive drones and a four-legged robot; unnamed US agencies are also involved. Funding for the ATLAS network has been increased in recent years.

1. What Atlas network exercises involving or coordinated by Europol are currently being planned, who conducts them and who takes part in them?
2. How many officers (including officers seconded from Member States) are expected to work in the Support Office at Europol, and what is the timetable for commencement of their duties?
3. What special technology has Europol funded so far for the ATLAS units, and who are the manufacturers of the explosive drones acquired and the four-legged robot?