

EN
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Answer given by Ms Vălean
on behalf of the European Commission
(23.6.2022)

The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) assists maritime surveillance carried out by Member States in their role as port, coastal or flag states, by hosting the Union Maritime Information and Exchange System, as established by Directive 2002/59/EC¹.

The Commission, together with EMSA, is following the technological developments as part of its continuous task of extending the cover of the system, and/or updating it, with a view to enhanced identification and monitoring of ships, taking into account developments in information and communication technologies. This is done in good cooperation with the EU Member States.

The Commission is aware of the technical developments referred to by the Honourable Member and is discussing in dedicated expert groups with a view of their testing and possible inclusion in the system and services provided to EU Member States.

As regards the specifics of satellites with ships radar, such or similar such techniques e.g. Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellite images, are already used and integrated into the system for, among other purposes, vessel detection.

Detection and identification of ship radars using radio-frequency detection, for the purpose of identification of an individual vessel is, with the existing level of civil technology, still maturing as regards accuracy, and developments are followed.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32002L0059>