

**Question for written answer E-001756/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Özlem Demirel (The Left)

Subject: Hourly cost of Frontex aerial surveillance

The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) has so far awarded contracts worth at least EUR 147 million for manned aerial surveillance, with a long-distance drone in Malta costing a further EUR 50 million. The initial 1200 flight hours of this 'Heron 1' drone were increased to around 3000 hours. However, it is unclear what the individual flight hours of manned and unmanned aerial surveillance cost and whether Frontex is spending excessive amounts of money on this.

1. What framework contracts have Frontex concluded so far under the Frontex Aerial Surveillance Service (FASS) or the Multipurpose Aerial Service (MAS) for manned and unmanned aerial surveillance, and what maximum amounts are foreseen?
2. How many manned flight hours have been or will be completed under these framework contracts, including all extensions, and how much did the flight hours completed so far for the MAS aircraft and the Heron drone in Malta therefore cost?
3. To what extent does Frontex consider the high cost of every hour of flight of the 'Heron 1' done to be reasonable, and what plans does the Agency have for a further extension of the framework contract or for a new tendering procedure for long-range drone or helicopter flights?