

**Question for written answer E-001919/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Özlem Demirel (The Left)

Subject: Frontex air surveillance hours of the 'pre-frontier area' in the central Mediterranean Sea

In 2018, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) launched Operation Themis to control and prevent unwanted migration and to combat people smuggling in the Central Mediterranean. Since then, the number of hours of operation of ships capable of rescue at sea has been reduced, while aerial surveillance by Member States and Frontex has steadily increased. To date, Frontex has not provided any information on the scope of aerial surveillance of the 'pre-frontier area' provided under the Eurosur border surveillance system.

1. Which aircraft and drones have been deployed by Frontex since 2018 for aerial surveillance of the 'pre-frontier area' in the Central Mediterranean under the Eurosur border surveillance system, and which services have been involved?
2. How many of these aircraft and drones used in Eurosur services were deployed in the Central Mediterranean in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 respectively, and how many flight hours did these aircraft and drones log each year?
3. Which countries or EU agencies have requested Eurosur services for aerial surveillance of the 'pre-frontier area' from Frontex for 2022, and which of these missions have been or are being carried out?