

**Question for written answer E-002202/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Özlem Demirel (The Left)

Subject: Review of Frontex air surveillance

According to its own data, as of February 2022, drone flights totalling approximately 2000 flight hours had helped Frontex detect a total of at least 13 000 refugees in 300 instances in the Mediterranean which were then reported to the coast guards responsible. For the past year, Frontex has stationed a Heron-1 drone from the Israeli armaments company IAI in Malta for such missions and will soon do likewise in Greece. Frontex also offers EU Member States the opportunity to monitor their external borders for migration control from the air using manned aircraft. Frontex charts two-engined aircraft from EU companies for such Frontex Aerial Surveillance Service (FASS) flights.

1. How many refugees has Frontex detected using drones, and what is the breakdown by pilot project – Tympaki (Greece) 2018, Lagos (Portugal) 2018, Lampedusa (Italy) 2019, Tympaki (Greece) 2019 and the current framework contract for flights from Malta and Crete respectively?
2. How many refugees has Frontex detected through its manned air service and what is the breakdown according to framework contract – Frontex/OP/470/2013/JL, Frontex/OP/166/2015/JL, Frontex/OP/932/2018/JL/MS, Frontex/OP/694/2020/JL/MS or other ongoing contracts?
3. Where were the detected boats or vessels with refugees disembarked and to what extent is the information in Frontex's JORA database reliable?