EN
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Answer given by Ms Vălean
on behalf of the European Commission
(30.9.2022)

1. Radiofrequency detection of ship radars from space is a recent and evolving technology that may have significant applications in what concerns a wide range of activities at sea, including maritime safety. Since 2020, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) Single Programming Document includes tasks to expand its portfolio of space-based capabilities to fulfil the needs of Member States. In this context, EMSA has been approached by several companies involved in space-based radio-frequency detection systems, where these show their product offer, roadmap for developments as well maturity of the presented solutions. The companies that approached EMSA include: Horizon Aerospace Technologies, Hawkeye 360, Unseenlabs, Kleos Space SA and KSAT.

2. All the above-mentioned companies contacted EMSA directly and technical meetings took place to understand the type of products offered as well as development roadmap. None of these meetings resulted in agreements with any of these companies and there were no procurements launched by the Agency linked with any of these capabilities. At a technical level, there was a preliminary assessment made by EMSA on the data collected by UnseenLabs (provided free of charge by the company), but at that stage the maturity level of the data was not considered sufficient to pursue additional investigations or any potential operational use. EMSA has a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) with Kleos Space SA, to enable future exchange of data for technical assessment purposes. At this stage, no data was exchanged under this agreement.

3. EMSA or the Commission had no contact with the Organisation ‘Pôle Mer Bretagne Atlantique’. EMSA was always contacted directly by companies.