

**Question for written answer E-000048/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Özlem Demirel (The Left)

Subject: Support for and use of Airbus's 'Zephyr'

The defence contractor Airbus plans to begin taking customer requests for flights of its stratosphere-circulating high-altitude platform station (HAPS) 'Zephyr' already this year. The first aircraft in the series is due to enter into service by the end of 2024. A spokesperson for Airbus said that it is near final design and close to being certified. Yet in 2022 a 'Zephyr' model crashed on a long-haul flight.

1. What support is the Commission providing to Airbus for the development of 'Zephyr'?
2. Under which projects of the EU research framework programme were 'Zephyr' operations developed or tested?
3. What stratosphere surveillance services do the Commission or Frontex plan to commission from Airbus, and how much will this cost?

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