

**Question for written answer E-000746/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Özlem Demirel (The Left)

Subject: Frontex reconnaissance in connection with the maritime emergency off the Italian province of Crotone

At 4:57 (UTC) on 25 February 2023, the Italian Maritime Emergency Control Centre signalled to all craft in the Ionian Sea that a vessel was in distress. Some hours later, that vessel crashed against rocks in rough seas and broke up; dozens of people died. According to reports, Frontex had spotted the vessel many hours before the disaster occurred.

1. How did Frontex trace the vessel in question, and what satellite-based or aircraft-based technology for detecting emissions from VHF and X-band maritime radiocommunication equipment or satellite telephones was used to do so?
2. What Frontex aircraft or drones stationed in Italy, Malta or Crete observed the vessel subsequently, and at what time, and to what authorities was the vessel's position reported?
3. What aircraft or drones used by the Frontex Aerial Surveillance Service have technology to locate mobile or satellite telephones on board, and who is the manufacturer of that equipment?

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