

**Question for written answer E-001073/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Dietmar Köster (S&D)**

Subject: Frontex

At 12:24 UTC on 6 March 2024, Sea-Watch 5 rescued a boat in distress at 33° 38' N 011° 35' E. Of the 56 persons rescued, 4 were in a very critical medical condition. One of them later passed away aboard Sea-Watch 5.

Before launching the rescue operation, the crew aboard Sea-Watch 5 sighted an aircraft circling above the boat that was in distress. According to open-source platforms, the Frontex aircraft with the call sign SPAROW4 was flying on that day.

I would therefore like to know:

1. At what time and in which position did SPAROW4 or any other Frontex asset first spot the boat that was rescued by Sea-Watch 5 at 12:24 UTC on 6 March 2024 at 33° 38' N 011° 35' E?
2. What was Frontex's risk assessment of the boat with regard to distress criteria?
3. Which kind of documentation did Frontex take of the boat and of the subsequent rescue operation, and with which authorities was which information shared?

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