

**Priority question for written answer P-001408/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Maria Spyraki (PPE)

Subject: Funding for surveillance vehicles along the EU-Turkey border

Last Friday, a video recording was made showing an armoured border patrol vehicle with a rope attached being used in an attempt to pull down a section of the fence dividing Greece and Turkey. It is worth noting that vehicles of this type have been procured by Turkey under the European Union-funded project 'Supply of Mobile Surveillance Units for Increasing Border Surveillance Capacity of Borders between Turkey and EU'¹. 75% of this project has been funded by EU funds, with the European Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance contributing EUR 27.6 million. The contract was awarded to the Turkish company Aselsan Elektronik, vehicle production being subcontracted to the Katmerciler company. Significantly, a number of senior Katmerciler executives were standing for the Turkish President's own AK party in the last national elections.

Bearing in mind that:

the above action was in breach of the terms of use of the vehicle supplied to Turkey;

the subcontractor in question has clear links with the Turkish government;

Will the Commission say:

What measures will it take to ensure that equipment funded by the EU for the protection and surveillance of its borders is not used to destroy its border fences?

Does the Commission scrutinise suppliers and subcontractors selected for EU-funded projects in order to avoid conflicts of interest?

¹ EU (EuropeAid/138541/IH/SUP/TR)