

**Priority question for written answer P-002276/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Özlem Demirel (The Left)

Subject: Long-range drones for Frontex

The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) intends to use long-range drones to monitor the Mediterranean area and with that aim in view awarded a contract worth more than EUR 50 million a year ago. One or more MALE-class drones (medium altitude and long flight duration) are to be deployed in Malta, Italy or Greece, but the system is not yet operational.

1. What companies (main contractor and subcontractors) have been awarded the Frontex contract to operate drones in the Mediterranean, and when does the contract start?
2. As things stand, where will the drones be deployed and what is their range?
3. What radar-based surveillance technology are the drones equipped with, and in what circumstances will the information collected also be shared with third countries such as Libya or Tunisia?