

Question for written answer E-004024/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Özlem Demirel (The Left)

Subject: Frontex handling anti-drone operations

At an informal meeting of some EU ministers for home affairs and justice in Munich, the Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration, Magnus Brunner, announced that Frontex could take care of anti-drone operations in future. For years, the agency has been testing drone detection and neutralisation systems at the EU's external borders to prevent smuggling and unauthorised surveillance. A 'Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-UAS) Prize Contest' currently rewards companies for such technologies. Furthermore, the Commission plans to dedicate an additional EUR 250 million from the border management fund specifically to drones. It is unclear, however, whether these funds are to go exclusively to Frontex or also to Member States and private actors. Meanwhile, the Commission is working on a reform of Frontex's mandate that will be presented by the end of 2026.

1. What is the Commission's legal basis for Frontex's future involvement in anti-drone operations, and where could the measures take place?
2. For which measures will the announced EUR 250 million from the border management fund be used, and who will receive this financing (agencies, Member States or private companies)?
3. How much has the Commission spent to date on drones (MALE drones in Crete and Malta, VTOL drones on coastal patrol vessels, etc.) and on research and pilot projects with unmanned systems (air, land, sea)?

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