

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004645/25
to the Commission
Özlem Demirel (The Left)
(20 November 2025)**

Subject: Frontex Atlantic surveillance flights

Frontex has begun a new mission with Cabo Verde to carry out surveillance flights in international waters off the coasts of Senegal, Mauritania and the Gambia. Data on boat sightings is collected in real time and transmitted to the competent authorities in the West African countries. Reports of failures to protect human rights in a number of those countries raise significant concerns about fundamental and human rights. Frontex's fundamental rights officer has also criticised the risks to the principle of non-refoulement and has called for a corresponding action plan. It also remains unclear whether and how the authorities in Cabo Verde or other countries will have access to the data Frontex produces.

1. What surveillance technology (e.g. electro-optical sensors, SAR radars, COMINT) do the aircraft have on board and which company is responsible for operations?
2. To which public authorities in Cabo Verde or neighbouring countries (including Spain) is the data from these flights transmitted, in real time or after the event? To what extent have the public authorities of those countries also sent liaison officers to Frontex situation centres in Warsaw?
3. What arrangements or technical protocols govern the data sharing between Frontex and the security authorities and Cabo Verde's or neighbouring countries' search and rescue authorities? What safeguards have been put in place to protect personal data and the principle of non-refoulement and prevent other human rights violations?

Submitted: 20.11.2025

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(23 December 2025)**

As the question falls under the responsibility of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), the Commission has asked the Agency to provide a response to the question raised by the Honourable Member. The Commission will send the Agency's reply to the Honourable Member as soon as possible.

See annexes: Annex 1, Annex 2.
