

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001127/26
to the Commission
Özlem Demirel (The Left)
(18 March 2026)**

Subject: Peace Facility funding for drones in military operation IRINI

For years, Italy has supplied drones for the EU military operation IRINI. Now, these are set to be financed through the European Peace Facility (EPF), which will cover up to 60 hours of monthly flight time for US MQ-9 Reaper Block 5 drones, as well as their maintenance.

1. How many hours of flight time and what type of drones did Italy supply over the past five years in the context of its national participation in operation IRINI, and how many are to be financed through the EPF in the future?
2. What has been the total cost reimbursed to Italy from EU funds for drone flights under IRINI so far, and what is the future flat rate per hour of flight time with a combat-capable ‘Reaper’?
3. For what reasons is the additional funding coming from the EPF, and to what extent is this also envisaged for other national contributions under IRINI?

Submitted: 18.3.2026

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(22 June 2026)**

The mandate of the EU Naval Force Mediterranean Operation IRINI is under the close scrutiny of Member States which exercise political control and strategic direction through the Council, more specifically the Political and Security Committee (PSC). IRINI is a Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) operation under the European Peace Facility (EPF) Operations pillar and as such it is managed by the Council secretariat.

With regard to question 1, the European External Action Service (EEAS) is not in a position to provide information or comment on support provided to IRINI by individual Member States.

Concerning questions 2 and 3, given the management modalities explained above, the EEAS considers that any request for information on funding and reimbursement should, therefore, be addressed to the relevant Council bodies. The EEAS confirms that none of the deliveries mentioned in the written parliamentary question have been financed through EPF assistance measures.
