

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002681/26
to the Commission
Özlem Demirel (The Left)
(29 June 2026)

Subject: Deployment of a Frontex surveillance aircraft in the English Channel

Frontex has been using its own surveillance aircraft to assist France and Belgium in monitoring their coasts facing the UK since December 2021. The aircraft transmits video and sensor data in real time to the Frontex Situation Centre. It is unclear to what extent UK authorities have access to the surveillance data collected.

1. What costs were incurred from the surveillance aircraft's operations in the English Channel 2021 to 2026, broken down by framework contract and actually contracted services, as well as additional expenditure paid by Member States or the United Kingdom?
2. What surveillance technologies does the aircraft have on board, and how many flight hours have been completed in each year since 2021?
3. Which authorities of which countries have access to the surveillance data collected by the surveillance aircraft in real time and as prepared reports, and how are UK authorities involved in the information sharing or other implementation of the surveillance aircraft mission?

Submitted: 29.6.2026

Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(28 August 2026)

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