



European Maritime Safety Agency

## Subject: Access to documents application

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your interest in the activities of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA).

This is a reply to your application for access to documents registered on 30 May 2022, whereby you requested:

*"Three years ago, the Frontex border agency used a long-range Hermes 900 drone for border surveillance. The drone was stationed in Crete and the flights were carried out under the responsibility of the EU Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). At the beginning of January 2019, the aircraft had an accident while landing on the runway of Tympaki Airport. According to the EU Commission (response of Adina Vălean on behalf of the European Commission of June 25, 2020, E-000567/2020) it was not a crash, but a "hard landing" after the drone's sensors had previously displayed "atypical readings". Accordingly, the fuselage, wings and sensors were damaged, but there was "neither fatalities nor damage to the runway". I would like you to send me the accident report."*

Please be informed that your application has been processed in line with the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding public access to documents.

Firstly, note that there is an error in the timeline referenced in your application as the mentioned incident occurred in January 2020 (not 2019). In addition, EMSA was responsible for the management of the contractor/RPAS service operator, the contractor was responsible for the safety of the flights and the operation was managed by Frontex in coordination with the Greek coast guard authorities.

Secondly, as a result of our internal assessment, kindly note that EMSA does not hold the accident report requested.

The final investigation was performed by the contractor/operator and the manufacturer in coordination with the Greek aviation authority and EASA. Any final reports were not shared with EMSA because at the time the investigation was completed:

- the EMSA contract for the service in Greece had already expired (by 18 January 2020);
- no other operations were in preparation in 2020 by EMSA;
- on 2 June 2020 EMSA informed the contractor of its intention to not prolong the FWC beyond the initially foreseen expiry date. The FWC expired without renewal on 26 September 2020.

Kind regards,  
EMSA Document Access Coordinator