

Mr Liviu Bute
Deputy General Inspector
Romanian Border Police
Management Board Member of Romania

Our ref: ORD/FDU/MIMI/9743/2020
Please quote when replying.

Warsaw, 09 November 2020

Dear Mr Bute,

I would like to thank you for the support provided to the implementation of Frontex coordinated activities and for the fruitful cooperation in the frame of Joint Operations (JOs) and Rapid Border Interventions (RBI) at the sea borders, hosted by Greece. The deployment of the Romanian officers and assets, especially during the crisis period of the COVID pandemic is highly appreciated and they contributed to the effective implementation of the operational activities.

Frontex received information about an article published in the Bellingcat media outlet on the on 23 October 2020 about “Frontex illicit role on alleged pushbacks”. In the article the Agency is criticized as having been complicit in maritime “alleged pushback” operations of migrants attempting to enter the European Union via Greek waters. Specifically, the article refers to 6 incidents where Frontex assets have been involved. In two of these incidents the Romanian vessels deployed at Lesvos have been identified as being in patrol in the vicinity, according to the article on the 08.06.2020 and 15.08.2020.

Taking into consideration that your assets were in the vicinity of the alleged push backs, I invite you to inform me about how do you assess the operational situation and how do you react to the accusations expressed by the media against Romanian maritime assets?

Moreover, with regards to the event on 08.06.2020, can you confirm whether CPV 1103 had the AIS data turned on or off?

Regarding the event on the 15.08.2020, can you provide additional information on what CPV MAI 1102 did after Hellenic Coast Guard took over the incident?

I await your reply and, taking the opportunity of this correspondence, I would also like to thank you for your continuous support to Frontex’ coordinated activities.

Yours sincerely,



Fabrice Leggeri
Executive Director