

Mr Carlos Matos Moreira
Portuguese Immigration and Borders Service
Management Board Member of Portugal

Our ref: ORD/FDU/MIMI/9744/2020
Please quote when replying.

Warsaw, 09 November 2020

Dear Mr Matos Moreira,

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 Portuguese 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 has recently received information about articles published in various media outlets about “Frontex illicit role in alleged pushbacks”. In the articles 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 articles refer to 6 incidents where Frontex assets have been involved. In three of these incidents the Portuguese vessels deployed at Lesvos have been identified as being in patrol in the vicinity, according to the sources on 04.06.2020, 05.06.2020 and 19.08.2020.

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 Portuguese maritime assets?

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

Yours sincerely,



Fabrice Leggeri
Executive Director