

OPERATIONS DIVISION
Joint Operations Unit
SEA BORDERS SECTOR

Operational Plan (Main part)

EPN CONCEPT
Joint Operation EPN Hera 2014
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Commented [A1]: The non-disclosed text contains the name of an actor participating in Frontex activities. The disclosure of such information would undermine the protection of the privacy and the integrity of the individual, in particular in accordance with EU laws regarding the protection of personal data. In this regard the text is not disclosed pursuant to the exception laid down in Article 4(1)(b) of Regulation (EC) 1049/2001.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Operational Plan has been agreed with the authorities of the host Member State¹ (MS), in consultation with the authorities of the home Member States participating in the joint operation coordinated by Frontex. It covers all necessary elements for a proper and timely organization of the joint operation coordinated by Frontex.

The Operational Plan is composed of the Main part, Annexes and Handbook to the Operational Plan. The Main part, its Annexes and the Handbook are an integral part of the Operational Plan, having the same importance and legal binding character.

The Main part and Annexes of the Operational Plan contain detailed and specific information related to the particular joint operation, while Handbook to the Operational Plan encloses operational information applicable to all joint maritime operations. Annexes and Handbook complement the Main part of the Operational Plan by providing complete and comprehensive description of the implementation of the joint operation.

The Main part and Annexes of Operational Plan are marked as "Limited" without prejudice to the public right of access to documents as laid down in Regulation (EC) 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001, regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents, while the Handbook to the Operational Plan has no classification mark indicated.

Operational Plan shall only be made available to the authorities referred in each MS as "Law Enforcement". This document shall be made available to other interested parties only on a need-to-know basis and in accordance with European and national rules on the protection of sensitive/classified information. Such dissemination of this document shall be done only on a case-by-case basis.

This Operational Plan may be revised at any time in order to correspond with the new operational developments. In accordance with Article 3a (2) of Frontex Regulation, any amendments to or adaptations of the Operational Plan require the agreement of the Frontex Executive Director and the host MS. A copy of the amended Operational Plan shall be immediately distributed by Frontex to the participating MS via FOSS.

The Legal framework of Frontex, Fundamental rights in Frontex coordinated activities and Code of conduct can be found in Handbook.

2. DESCRIPTION AND ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION

The JO EPN Hera dates back to 2006, when a massive influx of irregular migrants (30 246) landed the [REDACTED]. The joint operation has been implemented each year since then, usually during the summer months, when departures from West African countries and Morocco are more frequent.

Nevertheless, since its first implementation, the JO Hera has witnessed a gradual decrease in the number of incidents and apprehended migrants [REDACTED], to the extent which was reached in 2013, when, from 1 August to 31 October, 7 incidents related to irregular immigration occurred and 128 irregular migrants were apprehended.

This remarkable achievement can mainly be ascribed to the high level of cooperation amongst the following countries - Spain, Senegal, Mauritania and Morocco - over the past few years. This cooperation, inter alia, has consisted of [REDACTED] which on the whole has succeeded in curbing the flow and preventing further departures from Senegal and Mauritania towards the Canary Islands.

Combined with the effectiveness of countermeasures implemented by the Mauritanian and Senegalese authorities to strengthen border and inland security, the implementation of the JO Hera [REDACTED]

¹ For the purposes of the present document, the term "Member State" includes also the States participating in the relevant development of the Schengen acquis in the meaning of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and its Protocol (No 19) on the Schengen acquis integrated into the framework of the European Union.

Commented [A2]: The blanked out parts contain indications of the operational area. Disclosing the operational area would expose law enforcement officials patrolling the area and harm the course of future and ongoing operations, and thus facilitate irregular migration. Therefore, public security will be affected. In light of the above, the text is not disclosed pursuant to the exception laid down in the first indent of Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation No 1049/2001 relating to the protection of the public interest as regards public security.

At the same time, a displacement of sub-Saharan migrants, which increased in 2011 and also in 2012 and 2013, occurred along the West African route towards the southern coast of Spain, through Morocco and Algeria. This displacement occurred because of the protracted crisis in Mali and other conflicts in the Sahel region.

Moreover a displacement of Sub-Saharan migrants was reported during 2010, with the use of air routes from West African countries towards Turkey (Istanbul).

It is worth mentioning that in September 2013 Morocco adopted a new legal package to deal with the question of migration. Since then and for the first time in this country's history, 580 asylum seekers (mostly Syrians and people from Cote d'Ivoire) have been given refugee status. In addition, 25 000 irregular migrants are expected to benefit from an "exceptional" grant of residency papers in 2014. Nevertheless it might be assumed that most of the irregular migrants who are stranded in Morocco will not be able to benefit from the exceptional regularisation programme. This might have a direct impact on their continued willingness to travel towards the EU (Ceuta and Melilla, Straits of Gibraltar, Italy through Libya) with whatever means possible. In this respect, it cannot be ruled out that the recent organised runs of large groups of migrants at the two Spanish enclave's perimeter fences (Ceuta and Melilla) may be related to the vast presence of irregular migrants stranded in Morocco. Notwithstanding the factors mentioned above, there are indications to suggest that the West African route will be heavily used during 2014. It is anticipated that migrants from sub-Saharan countries will traverse the West African route towards Morocco and Libya with the purpose of entering Spain (southern coast and the enclaves) and Italy. Already in 2014, the Senegalese authorities have reported three attempts of departures towards the Canary Islands.

The thorough assessment of the situation can be found in the Annex 1.

3. OPERATIONAL AIM AND OBJECTIVES

3.1. Operational aim

The operational aim is to implement coordinated operational activities at and beyond the external sea borders of the Atlantic Ocean region in order to control irregular migration flows towards the territory of the MS of the EU and to tackle cross border crime.

The Host MS (Spain) has a bilateral agreement with the Senegalese authorities, aiming at preventing irregular migration and the safety at sea. The agreement involves the performance of

allowing Spain to monitor the afore mentioned area, increase the maritime situation awareness of Senegalese authorities, and, in general, perform all activities that would fall under Senegalese jurisdiction in accordance with the international law, including, detection, interception apprehension of suspected vessels and persons on board.

The agreement of Senegal to the present operational plan ensures the participating MSs deployed technical equipment and human resources the same status of the one granted to the Spanish authorities under the Bilateral agreement.

Furthermore, the norms and standards as regards the respect for fundamental rights set out by the EU are fully ensured, through the compliance with the Regulation No. 656/2014 to the present JO, in particular the applicable principle according to which ***"When cooperation with third countries takes place on the territory or the territorial sea of those countries, the Member States and the Agency should comply with norms and standards at least equivalent to those set by Union law"*** (Recital 5 of the afore mentioned Regulation).

The operational aim will be implemented in full compliance with the relevant international and EU law, including:

- the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

Commented [A3]: The blanked out parts contain indications of the operational area. Disclosing the operational area would expose law enforcement officials patrolling the area and harm the course of future and ongoing operations, and thus facilitate irregular migration. Therefore, public security will be affected. In light of the above, the text is not disclosed pursuant to the exception laid down in the first indent of Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation No 1049/2001 relating to the protection of the public interest as regards public security.

- the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea,
- the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue,
- the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air,
- the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,
- the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,
- the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,
- the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant international instruments.
- the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.
- Regulation No. 656/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 establishing rules for the surveillance of the external sea borders in the context of operational cooperation coordinated by the European Agency for the Management of the Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union.

3.2. Operational objectives

- Enhance border security
- Enhance efficiency of border security
- Enhance operational cooperation
- Enhance exchange of information
- Enhance efficiency of the exchange of information
- Identify possible risks and threats
- Establish and exchange best practices
- Support establishment of permanent structures

The main objectives of joint operation will be achieved by combining different type of operational activities, particularly: border surveillance.

The detailed information regarding operational objectives and indicators is provided in Annex 2.

4. OPERATIONAL CONCEPT

The activities during the operation include deployment of technical and human resources in order to:

- Support to Spanish authorities in border surveillance activities at sea borders;
- Counter cross border criminality;
- Prevent loss of life at sea;
- Carry out debriefing activities in order to collect information for risk analysis purposes;
- Share experiences and exchange expertise as well as to constantly update knowledge on the irregular migration trends in order to adopt countermeasures to tackle the phenomena;
- Collect and assess information in order to improve the detection of human smuggling and trafficking in human beings facilitation by individuals and/or criminal networks and assist wherever possible identification and detention of facilitators;
- Provide with a clear and updated situational picture concerning the operational areas, modus operandi, main trends and allowing for prompt reaction in case of change of these features;
- Carry out daily and ad-hoc exchange of information between Frontex and all operational actors and structures involved;
- Promote the inter-agency cooperation and cooperation with other international and EU bodies and Third Countries.

The detailed operational concept and Guidelines for debriefing activities are defined in Handbook.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

5.1. Period of implementation²

Commencement	1 August 2014	12:00 (local time)
Termination	31 October 2014	12:00 (local time)

5.2. Additional information

Travel days	Travel days should be planned by MS in order not to hamper the deployment period
Operational briefing	All participants of the JO will be briefed at the beginning of their deployment, in a centralized way.
Operational debriefing	If and when possible, debriefing of the participants will be performed during the last days of deployment.

5.3. Operational areas³

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Commented [A4]: The blanked out parts contain detailed information regarding the operational area. Its disclosure would expose law enforcement officials patrolling the area and harm the course of future and ongoing operations, and thus facilitate irregular migration. Therefore, public security will be affected. In light of the above, the text is not disclosed pursuant to the exception laid down in the first indent of Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation No 1049/2001 relating to the protection of the public interest as regards public security.

5.4. Initial participants

Host MS	Spain
Home MS	Iceland
Third countries	Cape Verde (Observer) Senegal, Morocco (Exchange of information)
Other Union agencies and bodies or international organizations	EFCA, EMSA, EUROPOL, FRA, MAOC (N) and UNHCR

² Foreseeable duration of the joint operation as indicated in the Article 3a (1) (b) - of the Frontex Regulation.

³ Geographical area of the joint operation as indicated in Article 3a (1) (c) of the Frontex Regulation

5.5. Operational briefings / debriefings

All participants taking part in joint operation will receive the Operational briefing and debriefing delivered by representatives of Frontex and national authorities of host MS.

The detailed information regarding operational areas, initial plan of deployed resources and operational briefing and debriefing is provided in Annexes 4-6.

The standard plan of operational briefing and debriefing is available in Handbook.

6. COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES, OTHER UNION AGENCIES AND BODIES OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

6.1. Cooperation with third countries

LCC Dakar will be established in the Spanish Embassy where representatives of both Spanish authorities CNP and GC are working together in the framework of the JO EPN Hera 2014.

In the framework of the existing Working Arrangement between Frontex and the competent authority of Cape Verde and pursuant to Article 14(6) of the Frontex Regulation, Frontex has invited border guard/police officer from the aforementioned country to be deployed as observers in ICC Madrid / CRCC Canary (RCC Las Palmas) with the agreement of the Spanish authorities.

The observers will receive appropriate operational briefing and debriefing delivered by Frontex.

In addition, the exchange of information between the Liaison Officers of Senegal, Mauritania, Morocco and RCC Las Palmas will be maintained in the framework of bilateral cooperation between aforementioned Third countries and Spain.

The more detailed information regarding the participation and tasks of Third Country Observers in joint operation is defined in Annex 7.

6.2. Cooperation with other Union agencies and bodies or international organizations

During the joint operation the cooperation with EFCA, EMSA, EUROPOL, FRA, MAOC (N) and UNHCR will be established.

More detailed information about cooperation with other Union agencies and bodies or international organizations within maritime domain is provided in Annex 8.

7. COORDINATION STRUCTURE

7.1. Partnership

Frontex as the EU coordinator, initiates, promotes and facilitates the EU MSs synchronized efforts to control the external borders.

The Spanish authorities - Spanish Guardia Civil and Spanish Cuerpo Nacional de Policia - are the direct partners of Frontex and responsible for all border related activities within the joint operation EPN Hera 2014.

The home MSs will support the achievement of operational objectives and implementation of activities by deploying their technical equipment to the defined locations in particular periods of time within the period of implementation of the JO.

7.2. Main operational structures / actors and their tasks

7.2.1. Member States

- International Coordination Centre (ICC) - ICC Madrid
- ICC Coordinator - Officer of Spanish Guardia Civil
- Joint Coordinating Board (JCB) - ICC Coordinator, IO, NO, FOC, etc
- National Official (NO) - Officers of home MSs deploying maritime and aerial assets
- Intelligence Officer (IO) - Officer of Spanish Cuerpo Nacional de Policía
- Guest officers and Officers of the host MS
- Commanding Officer (CO) - Commander of assets
- Regional Coordination Centre (RCC)- RCC Las Palmas
- RCC Coordinator - Officer of Spanish Guardia Civil
- Liaison Officer - Technical Equipment (LO - TE) - Officer of Spanish Guardia Civil
- Local staff of the host MS

7.2.2. Frontex

- Operational Manager (OM) and Operational Team (OT)
- Frontex Coordinating Officer (FCO)
- Frontex Operational Coordinator (FOC)
- Operational Analyst (OA)
- Special Adviser for Debriefing Activities
- Frontex Situation Centre (FSC)
 - Senior Duty Officer (SDO)
 - Frontex Support Officer (FSO FSC)
 - FOSS Service Managers
 - JORA Service Managers
- Training Unit (TRU)
- Pooled Resources Unit (PRU)
- Seconded Guest Officers

The tasks and roles of operational structures / actors are defined in Handbook.

Description of the tasks and specific instructions to guest officers and other participants (Rules of engagement) are defined in Annex 3.

8. COMMAND, CONTROL, COMMUNICATION AND REPORTING

8.1. Command and control

Operational command of aerial and maritime assets of the participating MS remains with the respective MS, while the tactical command of the assets is in the hands of the ICC after consultation with the National Officials (NO).

NO is under command and control of the respective home MS.

Commanding Officers (CO) are the Commanders of assets according to their national legislation.

Command and control of GOs remains with the competent national authority of the host MS.

SGO perform their tasks under the instructions from the border guards of the host MS, while their command and control is exercised by Frontex.

The general command and control provisions are defined in Handbook.

Command and control scheme is defined in Annex 9.

Names of the host MS border guards and police responsible for cooperating with the teams, in particular those of the border guards/police who are in command of the teams during the period of deployment, and the place of the teams in the chain of command are included in Annex 11.

8.2. Operational communication

The operational communication between Frontex and all operational actors will be ensured via e-mail, cell and fixed line phones and videoconference as well as radio and satellite phones.

The information about joint operations (operational documents) will be accessible via FOSS.

Access



Commented [A5]: The blanked out parts contain detailed information related to certain instruments used by law enforcement officials. Their disclosure would jeopardize their work and harm the course of future and ongoing operations, and thus facilitate irregular migration. Therefore, public security will be affected. In light of the above the text is not disclosed pursuant to the exception laid down in the first indent of Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation No 1049/2001 relating to the protection of the public interest as regards public security.

Detailed information about communication and FOSS is provided in Handbook.

Contact details of participants can be found in Annex 11.

8.3. Communication with Press

Frontex is strongly committed to the principle of transparency, therefore, as a general rule, media should be granted access to operational areas.

A network of press offices of all involved authorities will be established and all contact details shall be sent to the press@frontex.europa.eu email address. A compiled list will be distributed to all parties involved.

The communication strategy on the Border Control Operational Actions on the territory of the Spain is common for Frontex and the Host Member State.

Frontex and Spain shall nominate Dedicated Press Officers (DPO) who will be entirely responsible for coordination of all matters related to interview requests, press visits to the operational area and any other press-related matter related to JO EPN Hera 2014 in general, as well as on the ground. They will work closely with the ICC Coordinator. Press visits to the JO EPN Hera 2014 will be organised by Frontex and, depending on the area of interest, by the Spanish authorities accordingly.

Press visits to the JO EPN Hera 2014 may be organised by Frontex and, depending on the area of interest, by the Spanish authorities accordingly. Frontex Information and Transparency Unit may arrange, upon agreement with the ICC, the deployment of a Guest Officer with the profile of Field Press Officer Coordinator.

Frontex communication policy, rules and guidelines for handling media requests are included in Handbook.

The contact details of Frontex spokespersons and dedicated press officers of national authority of the host country are indicated in Annex 11.

8.4. Reporting

The examples of templates of all reports are provided in Handbook. The templates in Word format are stored on FOSS.

8.4.1. Incidents reporting and JORA

All relevant incidents that have occurred within the joint operation shall be reported via JORA System.

Comprehensive information on JORA is provided in Handbook.

The list of JORA actors, the incidents reporting structure and JORA incident template attributes list are described in Annex 10.

The JORA Guidelines are available in FOSS.

8.4.2 Reports of participants

Type of report	Description	Responsibility	To be sent to
DAILY REPORTING PACKAGE	ICC Daily report and/or JCB Minutes	Operational overview on a daily basis, covering the last 24 hours (00:00-24:00)	ICC
	Standard Patrolling Schedule	Register of activities performed by the deployed assets	ICC
	Technical Equipment Mission Report	Information about the activity performed by the assets (patrolling hours, track, targets identified, detected, intercepted, photos taken, etc). The TE Mission Report also includes the compulsory information to be provided by the asset to Frontex in case of disembarkation of the migrants in Third country ⁴ .	CO, NO
	IO Daily Report	The IO report shall provide information concerning all incidents with regard to the routes, modus operandi, profile of migrants, boats and any further relevant pieces of information.	Intelligence Officer (IO)
Report from National Briefer	Information on National briefing provided to participants of the JO	National Briefer	Shall be sent to the Training Unit via email [redacted] within 5 calendar days after the briefing was performed

Commented [A6]: The blanked out parts contain information related to means of communication used by law enforcement officials. Their disclosure would lead to possible abusive usage and harm the course of future and ongoing operations, and thus facilitate irregular migration. Therefore, public security will be affected. In light of the above the text is not disclosed pursuant to the exception laid down in the first indent of Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation No 1049/2001 relating to the protection of the public interest as regards public security.

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8.4.3 Daily reporting package

The Daily reporting package shall be prepared by the ICC Staff and shall consist of the reports indicated in the chapter above.

The ICC is responsible for the dissemination of the Reporting Package on a daily basis before 13.00 CET to Frontex (Operational Team and FSC) via [redacted] and to the JCB meeting participants at the emails specified in the contact details section of the annexes.

Commented [A8]: The blanked out parts contain information related to means of communication used by law enforcement officials. Their disclosure would lead to possible abusive usage and harm the course of future and ongoing operations, and thus facilitate irregular migration. Therefore, public security will be affected. In light of the above the text is not disclosed pursuant to the exception laid down in the first indent of Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation No 1049/2001 relating to the protection of the public interest as regards public security.

⁴ In accordance to the Article 4 (3) 3 subparagraph of the Regulation No.656/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014, establishing rules for the surveillance of the external sea borders in the context of operational cooperation coordinated by the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the external Borders of the Member States of the European Union

8.4.4 Serious incident reporting

Type of report	Description	Responsibility
Serious Incident Report	An alert message that shall be reported immediately (within 2 hours after recognition) to FSC in case a relevant incident occurs that needs urgent attention as the incident may affect or be relevant to, the Frontex mission, its obligation, image, the safety and security of participants in activities coordinated or led by Frontex, or any combination thereof, having special regard to any allegation of violation of Fundamental Rights.	All participants in the JO
Shall be sent immediately via [REDACTED]		

Serious Incidents Catalogue is available in Handbook.

8.4.5 Frontex reports

Type of report	Description	Responsibility	To be sent
FCO report	Feedback on performed activities in the area	FCO	Shall be sent to Frontex via emails [REDACTED]
FOC Daily Report	Overview of the operational activities related to the 24-hour period of the preceding day - to be sent until 1 pm	FOC	Shall be sent to Frontex via emails [REDACTED]
Weekly/ Bi-weekly Analytical Report/ Update (WAR/ WAU)	Analytical assessment of the factors impacting the situation in the operational area, trends, patterns (Analytical reports will be provided on an occasional basis, as far as there are incidents and intelligence is provided by the IO).	OA	WAR shall be sent by FSC to the following email addresses: [REDACTED] (ICC). The ICC shall disseminate the WAR to the participants deployed in the operational area (experts, NO) and to the contacts of all authorities involved in the JO. WAU shall be sent by FSC to the corresponding email addresses and uploaded on FOSS.
FSC Situational Report	Overview of the operational activities related to the 24-hour period of the preceding day	FSC SDO	Will be uploaded on FOSS under the responsibility of SDO to be accessible for MS and distributed to other stakeholders by email only in case they do not have access to FOSS

8.4.2 Document alert and Reference Manual

The officers are requested to compile the Reference Manual Alert Form each time a relevant document forgery is detected. This compiled alert shall be inserted in the daily report package and later integrate the Reference Manual if the relevance will justify it.

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8.4.3 Frontex Fusion Services

During 2014 Frontex will gradually deliver the initial Eurosur Information services (Vessel Monitoring, Vessel Detection and Environmental Information). These services will be provided via the Frontex Fusion Services and may be made available to decision makers, operational planners and situational centres in order to support their decision making, planning and execution of missions. Aligned with operational needs, these services will be generally accessible via the Eurosur Network and the JORA Visualisation Module. For more information, please contact us at [REDACTED]

9. ORGANISATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND LOGISTICS

9.1. Arrangements of deployed resources

9.1.1. Operational resources management system (OPERA)

The Operational resources management system (OPERA) is an integrated web-based system for the management of the operational resources pooled and deployed in Frontex coordinated activities. Information related to the availability and deployment of the resources is available in the application.

All information required for issuing accreditation cards for participants shall be introduced by participating MS via Opera.

More information about Opera is provided in Handbook.

9.1.2. Composition of the teams of guest officers and deployment of other relevant staff

For the meantime, the debriefing activities will be carried out by the nominated officers of respective authorities of the Host MS when incidents occur in the [REDACTED]

In case there are increasing migratory flows towards the Canary Islands observed, the Joint Debriefing Teams (JDT), composed of the debriefing experts from the host and home MS, may be deployed to interview the migrants and to support national and local authorities in the landing areas and / or Reception/Detention Centres, if needed.

The concept of the debriefing activities may be a subject to the changes without amending Operational Plan.

9.1.3. Technical equipment deployed by Member States

Technical equipment deployed by the MS in the operational areas to foster the border control activities may include Offshore / Coastal Patrol Vessels (OPV / CPV), Fixed Wing Airplanes (FWA) and any other type of equipment agreed and confirmed by the MS.

9.1.4. Management of the operational assets⁵ deployed by Frontex

Pooled Resources and Joint Operations Units deal with the distribution and retrieval of operational assets in the operational areas, according to the procedures in place.

More information about arrangements of deployed resources and operational assets is available in Handbook.

The initial plan of deployed resources is available in Annex 5.

All participants shall get familiar and apply the Tasks and specific instructions to guest officers and other participants (Rules of engagement) defined in Annex 3.

⁵ Frontex owned assets

Commented [A11]: The blanked out parts contain information related to means of communication used by law enforcement officials. Their disclosure would lead to possible abusive usage and harm the course of future and ongoing operations, and thus facilitate irregular migration. Therefore, public security will be affected. In light of the above the text is not disclosed pursuant to the exception laid down in the first indent of Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation No 1049/2001 relating to the protection of the public interest as regards public security.

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9.2. Tests and trials

JO EPN Hera 2014 may serve as a platform for implementation of other Frontex coordinated activities, such as EPN Staff Exchange, Compatible Operational Image and Frontex Positioning System after consultation with and approval of the host MS.

9.3. Transport and lodging

The use of rental car is to be approved in advance by the Operational Manager and expenses should be included in the relevant financial documents. In this case all practical/logistic issues should be arranged by participants themselves in advance.

Upon arrival and departure, transportation from/to the airports to/from the hotels should be arranged by the participants themselves; if not, such a facility can be provided by the Host MS.

9.4. Field visits

Prior the deployment of aerial assets, it is recommended for home MS to perform a field visit in order to get familiar with the operational area, local authorities and other stakeholders. The field visit should be approved by the Operational Manager and agreed with the ICC Coordinator in advance.

9.5. Logistics

9.5.1. Change of crew

Before executing the change of crew of asset deployed, the home MS shall inform Operational Team in due time in order to ensure delivery of the operational briefing / debriefing for crewmembers.

9.5.2. Diplomatic clearance and Night flights under VFR ATC clearance

The home MS deploying aerial assets shall make the necessary arrangements in advance to obtain the Diplomatic clearance and Night flights under VFR ATC clearance to allow the state aircraft to enter the airspace of host MS and the Third Country.

The home MS should respect the time needed for issuance of flight clearance according to national procedures and submit clearance request for the diplomatic clearance in time in order not to jeopardise the timely start of the mission.

9.6. EPN Yellow Pages

To facilitate organisational arrangements and logistics related to the deployment of resources, the information about the host MS and operational areas of joint maritime operations - EPN Yellow Pages - is available on Sea Borders website on FOSS:

[Redacted]

More information about EPN Yellow Pages is provided in Handbook.

10. EVALUATION

10.1. Member States and Third Countries

Reports	Benchmarks
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Commented [A13]: The blanked out parts contain information related to certain instruments used by law enforcement officials. Their disclosure would jeopardize their work and harm the course of future and ongoing operations, and thus facilitate irregular migration. Therefore, public security will be affected. In light of the above the text is not disclosed pursuant to the exception laid down in the first indent of Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation No 1049/2001 relating to the protection of the public interest as regards public security.

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Report from Participant	Shall be submitted to Frontex within 7 calendar days after deployment via email: [REDACTED] Relevant sections of the report will be distributed to TRU. <i>Template of the report is available on FOSS</i>
Final Report from Member State	Shall be submitted to Frontex within 7 calendar days after deployment or termination of the joint operation via email: [REDACTED]
Final Report from Third Country	<i>Template of the reports is available on FOSS</i>

Commented [A14]: The blanked out parts contain information related to means of communication used by law enforcement officials. Their disclosure would lead to possible abusive usage and harm the course of future and ongoing operations, and thus facilitate irregular migration. Therefore, public security will be affected. In light of the above the text is not disclosed pursuant to the exception laid down in the first indent of Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation No 1049/2001 relating to the protection of the public interest as regards public security.

The final payment will not be processed until the Final Reports from MS and Third country are submitted to Frontex. In case only few GO were deployed by home MS, Report from Participant may be sufficient, if prior agreed with the Operational Manager.

10.2. Frontex

Reports	Benchmarks
Frontex Evaluation Report	The results of the joint operation will be evaluated and Frontex Evaluation Report (FER) will be transmitted within 60 calendar days after the termination of the JO to the Management Board together with the observations of the Fundamental Rights Officer referred to in Article 26a of the Frontex Regulation. FER will be uploaded on FOSS.

11. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

In accordance with the decision of the Frontex Executive Director, Frontex will co-finance the joint operation. Frontex will reimburse eligible costs incurred by participating MS authorities in relation to deployments of human and technical resources provided that the Framework Partnership Agreement is in force.

Detailed financial provisions are described in Handbook.

ANNEXES

Annex 1	Description and assessment of the situation
Annex 2	Operational objectives and indicators
Annex 3	Description of the tasks and specific instructions to guest officers and other participants (Rules of engagement)
Annex 4	Operational area
Annex 5	Initial plan of deployed resources
Annex 6	Operational briefing and debriefing
Annex 7	Cooperation with third countries
Annex 8	Cooperation with other Union agencies and bodies or international organizations
Annex 9	Command and control scheme
Annex 10	JORA (JORA actors, JORA Incidents Reporting Structure, JORA Reporting Timeline, JORA Incident Template Attributes' List)
Annex 11	Contact details
Annex 12	Organizational arrangements and logistics