

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
 DIRECTORATE-GENERAL MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS
 Directorate C: Migration and Protection

Director

Brussels,

Ms Sabine Lösing, MEP
 Ms Cornelia Ernst, MEP
 Altiero Spinelli
 60, rue Wiertz
 B-1047 Brussels

Dear Ms Lösing,

Dear Ms Ernst,

As announced in the Commission's reply on question E-7159/16, please find below details of the reply obtained from the European Border and Coast Guard/Frontex Agency.

*1. The information required by the Honourable Member regarding concluded working arrangements with non-EU countries is available on the website of Frontex¹. In addition to this, Frontex is currently managing two EU-funded technical assistance projects: (1) the Eastern Partnership IBM Capacity Building Project (2014 - 2017) which includes cooperation with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine; (2) "Regional Support to Protection Sensitive Migration Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey" project (2016 - 2018) financed from the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA II) which includes cooperation with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*², the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. Frontex also cooperated with Morocco and Tunisia as part of the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) project (2014-2016), led by EASO.*

Risk Analysis

Frontex cooperates regularly in the framework of four risk analysis networks with several non-EU countries. Besides the Eastern Partnership and Western Balkan countries and Turkey listed above, Frontex also works with the following African countries in the context of the Africa-Frontex Intelligence Community (AFIC): Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Ivory Coast, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, the Gambia, Ghana, the Republic of Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, The Republic of Sudan, the Republic of South Soudan and Togo.

¹ <http://frontex.europa.eu/partners/third-countries/>

² This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

Return

Frontex in cooperation with the Nigeria Immigration Service has established the document "Best Practice for the organisation of Return Operations to Nigeria" (2013) contributing to the improvement of the existing practices in the area of returns, a helpful tool for officials of EU Members States and Nigeria working in the area of returns.

Research and Innovation

Frontex cooperates on a topical basis with USA and Canada services under the umbrella of the Working Arrangement in areas related to border surveillance and border checks technologies and procedures.

In addition, cooperation and contacts are in place with the authorities of the UAE, Hong Kong and Australia focussing on the exchange of knowledge and experiences related to Automated Border Control systems and other smart border technologies. Also concepts for passenger facilitation while maintaining a high level of security are explored."

2. Sea Border Sector in the framework of HERA Joint Operation finance European assets and their crews deployed in Senegal (and in the past in Mauritania). There is not direct agreement of FRONTEX with Senegal. The agreement is with Spain.

3.

RSU

Frontex cooperates with Albania, Serbia, and Georgia by providing assistance in the organisation of Collecting Return Operations and training to national escorts of non/EU/countries. The first Collecting Joint Return Operation took place on 3 December 2013 to Georgia. Training for escorts was performed with the support of Frontex trainers. Training sessions last for one week. In 2014, 2 sessions were performed (Albania and Georgia). In 2016, 3 sessions (Albania, Georgia and Serbia) were performed. For each training session 2 Frontex trainers were deployed for one week to the respective country. Frontex is also in contact with FYR of Macedonia, Ukraine and Armenia for the above-mentioned purposes.

JOU

Frontex initiated cooperation with non-EU countries as of 2011 with the aim of establishing a system for collecting and exchanging information between TC, EU member States and Frontex. It was established as Pilot Project until 2012 and became the Coordination Points Project in 2013. Since 2014, the LBS manages the Coordination Points in the framework of a dedicated Joint Operation. ~~Mainly the profile of deployed officers are either document experts or stolen vehicle experts. If requested by host country, dog handlers (drug) can be deployed in the framework of Coordination Points.~~

In 2011, five experts from three member State (namely Austria, Poland and Romania) were deployed in Moldova (at border with Ukraine) and in Ukraine (at the border with Moldova) during one month, representing a total number of 5 man months deployments.

In 2012, ten experts from seven member States (namely Austria, Estonia, Hungary, Italy, Poland Romania, Slovenia) were deployed for one month in Moldova (at border with Ukraine), in Ukraine (at the border with Moldova) and in Croatia (at the border with Serbia), representing a total number of 10 man months deployments.

In 2013, twenty-eight experts from ten member States (namely Austria, Estonia, France, Hungary, Latvia, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) were deployed in Moldova (at border with Ukraine), in Ukraine (at the border with Moldova), in Croatia (at the border with Serbia), in Albania (at the border with Montenegro) and in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (at the border with Albania), representing a total number of 30 man months deployments.

In 2014, thirty-seven experts from twelve member States / Schengen Associated Countries (namely Austria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Latvia, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Switzerland) were deployed in Moldova (at border with Ukraine), in Ukraine (at the border with Moldova), in Albania (at the border with Montenegro) and in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (at the border with Albania), representing a total number of 37 man months deployments.

In 2015, forty-nine experts from fourteen member States / Schengen Associated Countries (namely Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Switzerland) were deployed in Moldova (at border with Ukraine), in Ukraine (at the border with Moldova), in Albania (at the border with Montenegro) and in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (at the border with Albania), representing a total number of 61 man months deployments.

For 2016, sixty-eight experts from eighteen member States / Schengen Associated Countries (namely Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden) are foreseen to be deployed in Moldova (at border with Ukraine), in Ukraine (at the border with Moldova), in Albania (at the border with Montenegro), in Bosnia (at the border with Montenegro), in Montenegro (at the border with Albania), in Serbia (at the border with Bosnia) and in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (at the border with Albania), representing a total number of 87 man months deployments.

For the Air Border activities the figures have been provided for the period up to 2016 in the attached table. With regards to the future it is likely that that the deployments will be of a similar or greater level, with a particular wish to deploy officers to Turkey. Our deployments are planned in line with prevailing risk analysis conducted in real time so it is difficult to predict the specific numbers and locations for 2017 to 2020.


The purpose of the deployment of EU officers to third countries is the enhancement of operational cooperation between FX/MS and Third countries in order to contribute to the integrated border management. There is currently an experiment in deploying an EU officer to Canada to monitor movements across Europe by irregular migrants.

YEAR	COUNTRY	NUMBER OF DEPLOYED OFFICERS	PURPOSE OF DEPLOYMENT	LENGTH OF STAY in days per officer
2010				
2011	Republic of Belarus	2	JO Focal Points Air	21
	Russian Federation	4	JO Focal Points Air	21
2012	Albania	1	JO Focal Points Air	21
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	JO Focal Points Air	21
	Moldova	1	JO Focal Points Air	21
	Serbia	1	JO Focal Points Air	21
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1	JO Focal Points Air	21
	Ukraine	16	Flexi Force – "Eurocup"	around 21
2013	Albania	1	JO Focal Points Air	17
	Moldova	1	JO Focal Points Air	17
	Serbia	1	JO Focal Points Air	17
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1	JO Focal Points Air	17
	Ukraine	1	JO Focal Points Air	17
2014	Albania	2	Air Border Monitoring	45
	Georgia	1	JO Focal Points Air Intermediate Managers	11
	Serbia	3	Air Border Monitoring	around 35
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2	Air Border Monitoring	around 30
2015		1	JO Focal Points Air	18
	Albania	1	JO Focal Points Air Intermediate Managers	5
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	JO Focal Points Air	10
		2	JO Focal Points Air	18
	Moldova	1	JO Focal Points Air Intermediate Managers	9
	Montenegro	1	JO Focal Points Air	18
		1	JO Focal Points Air	13
	Serbia	1	JO Focal Points Air Intermediate Managers	12
	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1	JO Focal Points Air	17
2016	Albania	1	JO Focal Points Air	12

	1	JO Focal Points Air Intermediate Managers	12
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	JO Focal Points Air	22
Georgia	2	JO Focal Points Air	19
Moldova	1	JO Focal Points Air	21
Serbia	1	JO Focal Points Air	10
	1	JO Focal Points Air Intermediate Managers	12
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1	JO Focal Points Air Intermediate Managers	14

The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX) is a body which is independent of the Commission based on Regulation (EU) 2016/1624 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2016³ on the European Border and Coast Guard and amending Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EC) No 863/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulation (EC) No 2007/2004 and Council Decision 2005/267/EC. Accordingly, sole liability for the quoted reply transmitted by the Commission, rests with Frontex.

Sincerely yours,


Laurent Muschel

³ OJ L 251 of 16.9.2016, p.1.