



A strengthened and fully equipped European Border and Coast Guard

#SOTEU

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'I want a standing corps of 10,000 in place by 2020 ready to support the over 100,000 national border guards in their difficult tasks. We need to establish a genuine, efficient EU border guard — in the true sense of the word. For this to happen we also have to address the question of equipment [...] We need more planes, more vessels, more vehicles [...]

Jean-Claude Juncker, European Parliament, Strasbourg, 3 July 2018.



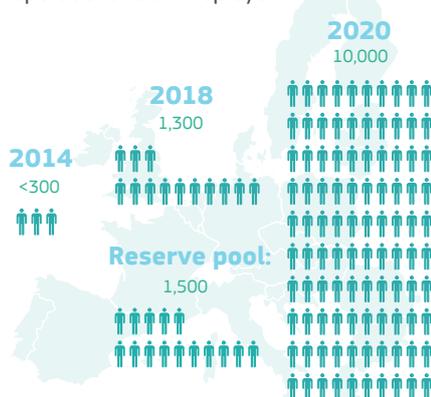
Europe needs to be able to effectively manage its external borders, improve returns and provide a high level of security within the Union. This is why the Commission is proposing today to equip the European Border and Coast Guard with the operational capacity and powers needed to effectively support Member States on the ground. A new standing corps of 10,000 operational staff with executive powers and their own equipment will ensure that the EU has the necessary capabilities in place to intervene wherever and whenever needed — along the EU's external borders as well as in non-EU countries. It will be equipped with a stronger mandate on returns and will closely cooperate with the new EU Agency for Asylum. The standing corps is a game changer — it will contribute to ensuring that the EU collectively has the necessary means to protect its common borders, respond to future challenges and preserve the long-term viability of the Schengen area of free movement.

A new standing corps of 10,000 operational staff

The establishment of the European Border and Coast Guard in 2016 — put in place in record time following a Commission proposal — represented a step change in the EU's ability to collectively protect its external borders. However, the reliance on voluntary Member State contributions of staff and equipment has resulted in persistent gaps that have affected the efficiency of joint operations. The new standing corps of 10,000 operational staff with executive powers and own equipment will ensure that the EU has the necessary capabilities in place — constantly and reliably.

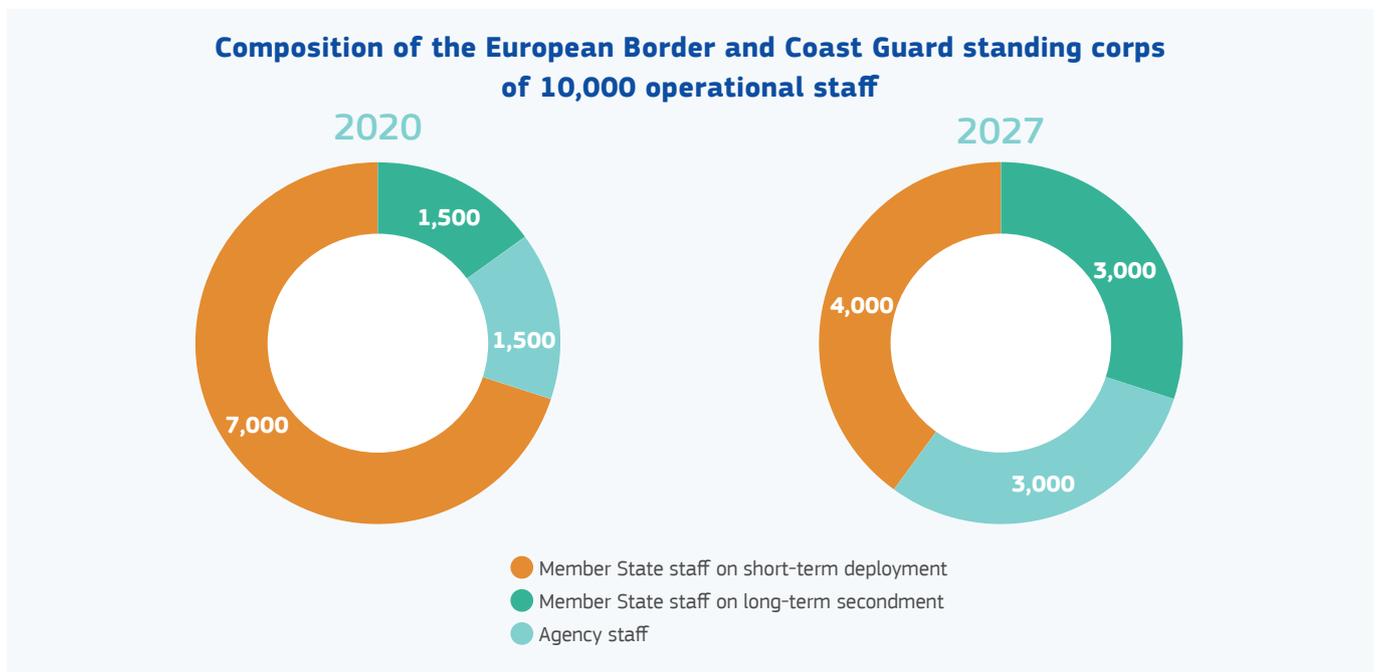
SCALING UP THE OPERATIONAL CAPACITY OF THE EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD

EU operational staff deployed:



The European Border and Coast Guard Agency will acquire its **own equipment**, such as vessels, planes and vehicles, available to be deployed at all times and for all necessary operations. The Commission has earmarked **€2.2 billion** under the 2021-2027 EU Budget to allow the Agency not only to acquire, but also to maintain and operate the air, sea and land assets needed for its operations.

- **A reliable intervention force.** The standing corps will bring together Agency staff as well as border guards and return experts seconded or deployed by Member States. The corps will be fully operational with 10,000 operating staff by 2020. Gradually, the pool of national staff on short-term deployments will decrease and be replaced by statutory staff of the Agency and staff seconded by Member States for long-term durations to make sure the Agency can work with the predictability and flexibility it needs.



Source: European Commission.

- **Expanded tasks and powers.** The staff of the standing corps will be able to carry out border control and return tasks, including those requiring executive powers in order to play a useful operational role. Under the authority and control of the host Member State, at the external borders, they will be able to check identity, authorise or refuse entry at border crossing points, stamp travel documents, patrol borders and intercept persons who have crossed the border irregularly. The staff will also be able to assist in the implementation of return procedures, notably by preparing return decisions or escorting non-EU nationals subject to forced return.
- **Fully trained staff and high professional standards.** Operational staff of the European Border and Coast Guard standing corps will receive common training to ensure the highest professional standards and a common operational culture.
- **Antenna offices.** The Agency will be able to set up temporary antenna offices in Member States hosting its operational activities to facilitate close cooperation with national authorities and guarantee the smooth running of the Agency's operations.

A stronger mandate on returns

The Agency will be able to effectively **support Member States** with the procedures for returning those who have no right to stay in the EU — in full compliance with fundamental rights — notably as regards:

- preparation of return decisions for Member States who, in turn, take the final decision and remain responsible for issuing them;
- identification of irregularly-staying migrants;
- acquisition of travel documents;
- assistance in developing national return management systems to improve the coordination and monitoring of returns.

The Agency will also be able to assist **non-EU countries** with their return activities to other countries.



Strengthened cooperation with non-EU countries

Support for and cooperation with non-EU countries is essential for the protection of the EU's external borders. Under its new mandate, the Agency will be able to launch joint operations and deploy staff to countries outside the EU, beyond the current limitation to neighbouring countries, to provide support on border and migration management as well as on returns. Any deployment or other cooperation with non-EU country authorities will be subject to prior agreement between the EU and the countries concerned.



Improved situational awareness and responsiveness

The European Border Surveillance System will be fully integrated in the functioning of the European Border and Coast Guard. The European Border Surveillance System is crucial for swift and exhaustive situational awareness of incidents and migration flows and provides shared risk analysis as well as a response mechanism at local, regional, national or EU level.



Enhanced cooperation with the EU Asylum Agency

The European Border and Coast Guard will work hand in hand with the reinforced European Union Agency for Asylum. They will cooperate in the deployment of **migration management support teams**, in particular in hotspots and controlled centres, to offer **integrated support on borders, asylum and return** where needed.



Financing a strong and responsive force

The total cost of setting up the standing corps, acquiring the Agency's own equipment and addressing the existing and new tasks amounts to €1.3 billion for the period **2019-2020**. For the period **2021-2027**, a total of €11.3 billion is needed to cover all the upgraded tasks and functions of the Agency. In addition, Member State authorities will be able to receive support from the €9.3 billion **Integrated Border Management Fund** proposed by the Commission for the next budget period 2021-2027.

