



Warsaw, 16 June 2008

Our ref: 5542

Ms Pirkko Kourula
Director Bureau of Europe
United Nations High Commissioner for
Refugees (UNHCR)

Dear Ms Kourula,

Dear Pirkko

I wish to acknowledge your letter of 13 June 2008 which sets the basis and the modalities for the implementation of our cooperation.

Our extensive consultations aimed at exploring possibilities for a more structured contribution by UNHCR to activities and operations under the coordination of FRONTEX in light of, *inter alia*, the European Commission's Communication of November 2006 on Reinforcing Management of the European Union's Southern Maritime Borders and Council Conclusions of September 2007.

Representatives of both organizations have identified a number of areas of mutually beneficial cooperation as well as appropriate implementation arrangements which can serve as the framework within which both organizations may structure cooperation in the field of border management.

I consider it important that we have the opportunity to renew the basis of this cooperation through this exchange of letters. I am pleased to confirm our agreement that the following as proposed in your letter forms the basis and the modalities of our cooperation.

“Objective

- Establishing a framework for cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Members States of the European Union (FRONTEX) with the view to contributing to an efficient border management system fully compliant with Member States' international protection obligations and, in particular, with respect to the principle of *non-refoulement*.

These objectives are to be achieved, *inter alia*, through:

- Regular consultations and meetings at appropriate levels.
- Exchange of information, expertise and experiences, as appropriate, in particular on mixed migratory movements towards EU Member States.
- Preparation of general and specific training material and tools and participation, where appropriate, in the delivery of training courses in particular on international human rights and refugee law as applicable to the context of border management.



- Sharing information gathered following the implementation of FRONTEX coordinated joint operations.
- Participation in and contribution to conferences and seminars on subjects of mutual relevance.
- Other ad-hoc activities as deemed necessary by both organizations.

Implementation and Evaluation

- The implementation of the cooperation between the two organizations, including involvement in each other's activities will be agreed on a case by case basis.
- Liaison Officers or staff member(s) will be assigned by both organizations to act as points of first contact.
- An evaluation of the cooperation will be undertaken by both organizations on an annual basis.

Miscellaneous

- All disputes which may emerge in connection with the interpretation or implementation of this exchange of letters shall be settled by means of consultations and negotiations between representatives of UNHCR and FRONTEX.
- Nothing in or relating to this exchange of letters shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities enjoyed by both parties.”

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ilkka Laitinen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "I" and a long, sweeping underline.

Ilkka Laitinen
Executive Director