

Mr. Theodoros Kliaris
Vice Admiral H.C.G.
Hellenic Coast Guard Commandant

Warsaw, 06 August 2020

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Please quote when replying.

Dear Commandant,

The European Border and Coast Guard Agency, Frontex, presents its compliments to you, and I would like to come back to you about a certain incident that has recently occurred in or close to the operational area of the Frontex coordinated Joint Operation (JO) Poseidon 2020 / Rapid Border Intervention (RBI) Aegean 2020. The incident apparently involved the detection of irregular migrants at sea, and their intended or subsequent disembarkation to the Turkish Territorial Waters (TTW).

On 27 July 2020 the Frontex deployed Danish helicopter operating in the Aegean Sea in support of the above mentioned operation reportedly detected a migrant boat near Chios Island. After the detection, a Hellenic Coast Guard (HCG) maritime asset took over the response and also the Turkish Coast Guard (TCG) was reportedly informed. The occurrence in question has been reported only as a prevention of departure incident within the JO Poseidon 2020, thus not resulting in any reported operational response in the JO Poseidon 2020 as such. Apparently, there has also been a communication from the HCG towards the Danish helicopter command asking him to modify the actual detection location afterwards.

Taking into consideration the incident described above and to guarantee fundamental rights compliance in the operational activities at the external borders of the European Union, I would like to invite you to launch an internal investigation, in order to identify the actual details. I would appreciate it if you could inform me on the outcomes of this enquiry at your earliest convenience. Considering the fact that the border area is part of the operational area of the Frontex coordinated maritime operations, and looking at the shared responsibility of the Agency in border management - in line with the European Integrated Border Management Strategy and the Frontex Regulation -, the adherence to fundamental rights, in particular the compliance with the principle of non-refoulement, is an ultimate requirement for both of us.

I would like to assure you of the continued efforts of Frontex in providing Greece with our support in the frontline of migration as well as in the fight against criminal or security threats at the external borders of the European Union, while ensuring good cooperation to effectively protect the human rights of those at sea.

Yours sincerely,



Fabrice Leggeri
Executive Director