

Mr Patrik Engström
Superintendent - Head of Border Policing Section
National Operations Departments
Management Board Member of Sweden

Our ref: CAB/10223/2020
Please quote when replying.

Warsaw, 20 November 2020

Dear Patrick,

During the extraordinary MB meeting held on the 10 November, you brought up an issue related to the reprimanding by a Frontex Coordinator of the Swedish officer commanding a patrol boat participating in the JO Poseidon. You indicated that this reprimanding was motivated by the fact that the Swedish officer decided to lodge a Serious Incident Report (SIR) directly to Frontex Situation Centre (FSC) following an interception of dinghy in Greek territorial waters in the vicinity of Chios on the 30th October 2020.

Following this, you stated that “there may be a problem in investigating allegations based on incident reports that do not exist because they had never been lodged, because there is an understanding from the operational management that SIRs should not be done.”

Given the seriousness of your allegations, I would like to inform you that immediately after the MB meeting I have entrusted Frontex’s Inspection and Control Office (ICO) with a fact-finding mission to establish whether procedures have been followed and to clarify what was the exact nature and content of the communications between the Poseidon JO Coordinating officer and the Commanding officer of the patrol boat.

In order to fully shed light on the events, I would highly appreciate if you could allow your Swedish officer to be heard by the assigned investigators from the ICO. Should this prove to be unattainable in our respective legal frameworks, I would be grateful if you could share with Frontex your findings following any internal investigation you might have conducted.

As a token of Frontex commitment to reach a full understanding of the issues and in order for this situation not to tarnish our common strive to protect our European external borders while fully upholding fundamental rights, please find enclosed the Handbook on the Operational Plan - Joint Maritime Operations, chapter 11 pertaining to serious incident reporting.

Best regards,



Fabrice Leggeri
Executive Director

Cc: Marko Gašperlin, Chair of the Management Board
Annex: Handbook to OPLAN - maritime JOs