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Brussels, **16. 03. 2021**

Dear Honourable Chairs,

With reference to the public hearing in the Frontex Scrutiny Group on 4 March 2021, I would like to share with the LIBE Committee and the Frontex Scrutiny Group some correspondence clarifying the Commission's support provided to the Agency in setting up the fundamental rights framework.

In particular, I would like to draw your attention to the letter of 18 December 2020 sent from Ms Pariat, Director-General of DG HOME, to Mr Leggeri, the Frontex Executive Director. The letter clarifies the main steps in the procedure to recruit the Fundamental Rights Officer, the Deputy Fundamental Rights Officer and the Fundamental Rights Monitors and all the respective interactions between the Commission and the Agency.

I would also like to share three other important letters of Ms Pariat and Mr Oel, Director for Borders, Interoperability and Innovation, showing the guidance provided to the Agency and the Executive Director between December 2019 and March 2020. These letters clarify the legal, financial and operational framework applicable to the Fundamental Rights Officer and his or her staff, including the financial accountability of the Fundamental Rights Officer.

As already stated in the Frontex Scrutiny Group on 4 March 2021, I believe that the Agency was in a position to complete the recruitment of 40 Fundamental Rights Monitors in time. However, due to various reasons highlighted in the letters referred to above, the recruitment of 40 monitors can now only be completed in the course of 2021.

Juan Fernando LÓPEZ AGUILAR
Chair of Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs,
European Parliament

Roberta METSOLA
Chair of Frontex Scrutiny Group,
European Parliament



In this context, I also wish to draw your attention to the explanations provided in Ms Pariat's letter of 18 December 2020 clarifying that all the necessary posts in the Agency's establishment plan were provided to ensure the recruitment of 40 Fundamental Rights Monitors in the administrators function group.

Finally, I enclose my reply to the Honourable Member François-Xavier Bellamy regarding my intervention in the hearing of the Budgetary Control Committee for the 2019 discharge of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency held on 22 February 2021.

I hope that the above correspondence will shed more light on the process and help the Members of the LIBE Committee and the Frontex Scrutiny Group to better understand the support the Commission is providing to the Agency.

I count on continued constructive cooperation between the European Parliament and the Commission regarding Frontex so as to ensure an effective and sound implementation of the Agency's new mandate.

Yours sincerely,



Ylva Johansson

Enclosures