

Mr David Sassoli

President of the European Parliament

Mr Juan Fernando López Aguilar

Chair of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

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Please quote when replying.

Warsaw, 16 July 2021

Subject: Launch of the “Joint Operation Serbia - Land 2021”

Dear President,
Dear Chair,

In accordance with Article 76(5) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896, I would like to hereby notify the European Parliament that Frontex launched the “Joint Operation Serbia - Land 2021” on 16 June 2021. This will involve the deployment of the operational staff of the European Border and Coast Guard standing corps in the operational area at the border between Serbia and Bulgaria that will last until 26 January 2022.

The start of the “Joint Operation Serbia - Land 2021” is another important step in the implementation of the Status Agreement between the European Union and Serbia, which entered into force on 1 May 2021.

The aim is to provide technical and operational assistance to Serbia by coordinating operational activities at the land borders of Serbia with Bulgaria. The joint operation also aims to tackle cross-border crime originating from the Western Balkan region towards the EU, as well as to control illegal immigration flows and to enhance European cooperation on border guard functions and law enforcement activities.

Upon Serbia’s request, the scope of operations will gradually increase in the months following the launch of the joint operation. In this regard, the first deployment to the operational area will involve 42 officers. In due course, and in line with the operational needs, it is envisaged that the number of deployments will increase to up to 87 officers.

The standing corps category 1 officers cannot exercise executive powers in Serbia in line with the provisions of the Status Agreement concluded between the EU and Serbia. This means that category 1 officers will consequently not be included in deployments as part of this joint operation.

Yours sincerely,


Fabrice Leggeri
Executive Director

CC: Ms Alina Gabriela Vasile Towornik, Head of Unit, LIBE Committee Secretariat