



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: Presidency
To: Working Party on Frontiers/Mixed Committee (EU-Iceland/Norway and Switzerland/Liechtenstein)
Subject: Synergies in and cooperation on the external dimension and borders

Article 68 et seq. of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 (EBCG Regulation) provide for cooperation between the agency and other EU institutions, bodies, organs and organisations, as well as international organisations, third countries, etc.

The external dimension, and thus cooperation with third countries, is a key element as regards integrated border management. It should provide the necessary support for the protection of the external borders and the effective management of the EU's migration policy, while further promoting European standards on border and return management, the exchange of information and risk analysis as well as facilitating the implementation of returns, and thereby supporting third countries in the field of border and migration management.

All of this is complemented by the agency's cooperation with third-country authorities, either in the framework of bilateral and multilateral agreements between Member States and third countries or through working arrangements established between the agency and the relevant third-country authorities.

Taking into account the importance of the external dimension of Frontex and in view of the evaluation of the Regulation, the Presidency believes it is necessary to address different aspects in this area.

For this reason, the Presidency invites delegations to discuss the following issues related to the external dimension of the agency:

- Which of the agency's tools do you consider to be most effective for cooperation with third countries (e.g. working agreements, liaison officers (FLOs), other tools)? Do Member States consider that the agency's external activity has facilitated EU/Member State cooperation with third countries? If so, in what areas?
- Do the Member States believe that there is effective coordination between the external actions and activity being carried out by both the agency and the Member States, or do they think that they overlap?
- Do the Member States consider that there is enough synergism and cooperation between Frontex and the other agencies (Europol, EUAA, eu-LISA, etc.) and institutions as regards the external dimension?
- In general, once the results and performance of the current external dimension are known, how could they be improved?
