

Frontex Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights Background Note for the Public Call for Applications

28 July 2017

The Consultative Forum to date

The European Border and Coast Guard Regulation¹ stipulates in its Article 70 that Frontex shall establish a Consultative Forum the main role of which is to *"assist the Executive Director and the Management Board with independent advice in fundamental rights matters"*. The aforementioned article also provides that the Consultative Forum shall *"be consulted by Frontex on the further development and implementation of the fundamental rights strategy, on the establishment of the complaints mechanism, on codes of conduct and on common core curricula"*.

The Consultative Forum was established in 2012 as a knowledge and expertise resource aiming at the enhancement of the respect of fundamental rights in all the activities of the Agency. For this purpose they have access to all information concerning the respect for fundamental rights and perform on site visits to Frontex activities. Since its inception, the Consultative Forum has acted as a platform for dialogue by bringing together experts from European Union Agencies, international organisations as well as from Civil Society organisations. The Consultative Forum has established its own working methods as mandated by the European Border and Coast Guard Regulation (cf. Annex I)

On 9 September 2015, the Management Board decided² on the composition of the Consultative Forum establishing a term of mandate until 31 December 2018.

The composition of the Consultative Forum

The Consultative Forum is composed of fifteen (15) members since 2012. Three (3) specialised organisations are explicitly mentioned in the European Border and Coast Guard Regulation to be invited as permanent members of the Consultative Forum, i.e FRA, EASO and UNHCR. Three (3) additional organisations, i.e CoE, IOM and OSCE/ODIHR were invited by the Management Board to renew their membership in Frontex Management Board Decision of 9 September 2015 (cf. Annex II).

In order to guarantee transparency and the opportunity of participation in the Consultative Forum to the widest possible group of stakeholders, nine (9) members of the Consultative Forum belonging to Civil Society organisations were selected following a [public call for applications in 2015](#).

On 31 January 2017, one of the Consultative Forum members withdrew from its mandate and, after consulting with the Consultative Forum, the Executive Director proposed to the Management Board to launch an open call to fill in the vacancy. On 29 June 2017, the Management Board decided³ to launch an open call to fill in the vacancy for a Civil Society organisation (cf. Annex III).

¹ Regulation (EU) 2016/1624 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2016 on the European Border and Coast Guard

² Management Board Decision No 29/2015 of 9 September 2015 on the composition of the Frontex Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights

³ Management Board Decision 19/2017 of 29 June 2017 on the launch of an open call to fill a vacancy in the Consultative Forum

The selection process

The public call is announced in Frontex website. The selection of a member from a Civil Society organisation that expresses interest in joining the Consultative Forum will be made by a selection committee chaired by the Frontex Deputy Executive Director, with the participation of representatives from the Frontex Management Board and the Chair of Frontex Consultative Forum, following an assessment based on the eligibility and selection criteria defined in the Annex IV.

All management of the public call will be handled by the Consultative Forum Secretariat and the applicants will be informed about the outcome of their application via e-mail. The selected organisation will be notified by a formal confirmation letter prior to a public announcement on the Frontex website.

Term of mandate

The selected organisation will have the same term of mandate as the remaining Civil Society Organisation members, *i.e.* 31 December 2018.

Timeline

Frontex has established a timeline for the selection process, as follows:

- ✓ Approval of the MB decision to launch call: 29 June 2017
- ✓ Launching of the call for applications: 28 July 2017
- ✓ Application deadline: 23 August 2017
- ✓ Evaluations of the applications: 24-25 August 2017
- ✓ MB Decision on composition of the Consultative Forum: September 2017