

## **WORKING ARRANGEMENT**

### **ESTABLISHING OPERATIONAL COOPERATION**

**between**

**THE EUROPEAN AGENCY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF OPERATIONAL COOPERATION AT  
THE EXTERNAL BORDERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE  
EUROPEAN UNION (FRONTEX)**

**and**

**THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA  
WORKING ARRANGEMENT**

**establishing operational cooperation between  
the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External  
Borders of the Member States of the European Union  
(Frontex) and  
the Ministry of Interior of Republic of Albania**

Having regard to the Frontex Regulation<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 14 thereof,

Referring to the decision of the Management Board of Frontex of 12 June 2008 to negotiate a Working Arrangement with the authorities of the Republic of Albania competent in matters covered by the objectives and tasks of Frontex in accordance with the Frontex Regulation,

Based on their ambition to promote the development of broad operational cooperation,

Taking into account that the Republic of Albania is participating in the Stabilisation and Association Process,

Frontex and the Albanian Ministry of Interior (hereinafter Mol of Albania), representing the interests of the relevant authorities of the Republic of Albania agree,

On establishing operational cooperation based on the following principles, objectives, organisation and content of such cooperation:

#### **1. PRINCIPLES**

Frontex and the Mol of Albania emphasise that the intended cooperation shall be developed gradually. The aim is to work towards a sustainable partnership.

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<sup>1</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 2007/2004 of 26 October 2004 establishing a European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (OJ L 349, 25.11.2004, p. 1), as last amended.

## **2. OBJECTIVES**

To counter illegal/irregular migration and related cross-border crime by means of border control as well as strengthen security at the borders between EU Member States<sup>2</sup> and the Republic of Albania.

To develop good relations and mutual trust among competent authorities of the EU Member States and the Republic of Albania involved in border security management activities.

To facilitate measures taken by Frontex and the competent authorities of the Republic of Albania in their joint efforts to fulfill their respective objectives and tasks.

## **3. ORGANISATION**

Frontex and Mol of Albania intend to establish and maintain structured dialogue on the operational cooperation between the Executive Director of Frontex and the Head of the Department of Border and Migration of the Albanian State Police of the Mol of Albania.

Frontex and Mol of Albania are to designate Contacts Points for the implementation of this Working Arrangement.

When necessary, expert-working groups may be established with a view to considering specific issues and elaborating corresponding recommendations.

## **4. CONTENTS**

Within the meaning of the Article 4 of the Frontex Regulation, Frontex and Mol of Albania intend to exchange information between the Frontex Risk Analysis Unit and the Border and Migration Department of Mol of Albania. Restrictions to the exchange of information are to be justified by legal or operational reasons only.

The Border and Migration Department of Mol of Albania appoint a National Contact in the field of risk analysis to participate as an observer in relevant sessions of the meetings of the Frontex Risk Analysis Network (FRAN).

Frontex may provide the Border and Migration Department of Mol of Albania with relevant analytical products. The access to Frontex tailored Risk Analyses or other Risk Analyses information will be decided on a case-by-case basis by the Executive Director of Frontex.

Within the meaning of the Article 5 of the Frontex Regulation, cooperation in the field of training may take place on a case-by-case basis upon decision of the Executive Director of Frontex.

Technical cooperation in the field of research and development, within the meaning of the Article 6 of the Frontex Regulation, may take place on a case-by-case basis upon decision of the Executive Director of Frontex.

Frontex may invite representatives of the Border and Migration Department of Mol of Albania to participate in Joint Operations as observers on a case-by-case basis upon decision of the Executive Director of Frontex. Participation in joint operations may take place only upon agreement of the hosting EU Member State.

Subject to the agreement of the hosting EU Member State, Frontex coordinated joint operations at borders between EU Member States and the Republic of Albania should be conducted in close cooperation and with participation of the Border and Migration

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<sup>2</sup> The term "EU Member States" includes also the Schengen Associated Countries.

Department of Mol of Albania. Restrictions to this coordination are to be justified by legal or operational reasons only.

The Border and Migration Department of Mol of Albania, may second national Border Police Officers to Focal Point Offices located at the external borders of the EU Member States on the basis of a proposal by Frontex and upon agreement of the hosting Member State.

Frontex and the Border and Migration Department of Mol of Albania, may explore possibilities to develop cooperation in the field of joint return operations as well as to promote the active participation of the Border and Migration Department of Mol of Albania. In Frontex coordinated joint return operations on a case-by-case basis as decided by the Executive Director of Frontex and upon agreement of the organising EU Member States.

The Border and Migration Department of Mol of Albania may be invited to participate in Pilot Projects launched by Frontex on a case-by-case basis and upon decision of the Executive Director of Frontex.

Frontex and the Border and Migration Department of Mol of Albania promote improvement of the operational interoperability between competent authorities of the EU Member States and the Republic of Albania involved in border security management activities.

## **5. AMENDMENTS**

Frontex and the Mol of Albania may amend the present Working Arrangement based on their mutual consent.

## **6. FINANCIAL ASPECTS**

The participation of the relevant authorities of the Republic of Albania in Frontex coordinated activities may be financed by Frontex under the terms and conditions applied by Frontex. Details of such terms and conditions must be agreed separately on a case-by-case basis.

## **7. LEGAL STATUS**

The present Working Arrangement shall not be considered as an international treaty. Practical implementation of its contents shall not be regarded as fulfillment of international obligations by the European Community and its institutions.

Done in Tirana on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2009 in two original copies in Albanian and English languages, both texts being equally authentic. In case of disagreement on the interpretation of the provisions of the present Working Arrangement the English version shall prevail.

Albania

For Frontex

For the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of

***[signed]***

Ilkka Laitinen  
Executive  
Director

***[signed]***

Ahmet Prenci  
General Director of the State  
Police  
of the Ministry of Interior of the  
Republic of Albania.