

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 National Security Council of the Republic of Armenia

The European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (hereinafter Frontex) and the National Security Council of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter NSC),

Wishing to promote the development of extensive operational cooperation between Frontex and the competent authorities of the Republic of Armenia,

Have arrived at the present arrangements on launching operational cooperation with regard to the following basic principles, objectives, contents and organisation of the cooperation:

1. BASIC PRINCIPLES

(i) Frontex and NSC emphasise that the intended cooperation shall be developed gradually. The aim is to work towards a sustainable partnership.

(ii) In the implementation of the intended cooperation, Frontex and the NSC afford full respect for human rights.

2. OBJECTIVES

(i) To counter illegal/irregular migration and related cross-border crime by means of border control.

(ii) To strengthen security at relevant borders between the European Union (EU) and Armenia.

(iii) To develop good relations and mutual trust between border guard authorities of the EU Member States and Armenia.

(iv) To facilitate measures taken by Frontex and NSC.

(v) To seek to develop through common effort of Frontex and the NSC the operational capacities of the competent Armenian authorities involved in the providing of border security.

3. CONTENTS

(i) Development of activities in the field of information exchange and risk analysis among Frontex, the competent authorities of EU Member States and those of Armenia.

(ii) In respect of the-possible exchange of classified information or intelligence, a separate security agreement or protocol on the requirements and procedures to be adopted by Frontex and the competent authorities of Armenia shall be concluded where necessary.

(iii) Development of capacity building activities aimed at enhancing and supporting integrated border management, particularly in the field of training, including supporting efforts of the competent authorities of Armenia to train its staff, as well as in the field of research and development related to border management.

(iv) Active discussion on development at technical level of border procedures, aiming at more efficient border control, best practices, improvement of technical equipment and technological upgrading at the borders.

(v) Coordination of joint operational measures and pilot projects for maintaining and improving border control between the European Union and Armenia.

(vi) Subject to the consent of the hosting EU Member State, Frontex may invite representatives of the competent authorities of Armenia to participate in certain Frontex coordinated joint operations as observers on a case-by-case basis decided by the Executive Director of Frontex.

(vii) Improvement of the operational interoperability between the border guard organisations of the EU Member States and Armenia.

4. ORGANISATION

(i) A structured dialogue on the operational cooperation in border-related matters will be maintained between the Executive Director of Frontex and the Secretary of NSC.

(ii) Daily contacts will be maintained via agreed nominated Points of Contact. When necessary, expert working groups may be established with a view to consider specific issues and elaborate corresponding common recommendations.

(iii) Following the coming into effect of the Working Arrangement, Frontex and NSC, in consultation with all relevant Armenian authorities, jointly develop Cooperation Plans structuring the details of the cooperation to be developed within a certain agreed time frame.

5. FINANCIAL ASPECTS

The participation of the competent Armenian authorities in Frontex coordinated activities may be financed by Frontex under the general terms and conditions applied by Frontex together with further specific detailed terms and conditions which shall be agreed separately in the form of a financing framework agreement.

6. 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 Union, and its institutions and Armenia.

7. COMING INTO EFFECT, AMENDMENTS AND TERMINATION

- (i) The present Working Arrangement shall come into effect on the day following its signature.
- (ii) Frontex and NSC may amend the present Working Arrangement based on their mutual consent.
- (iii) The present Working Arrangement shall continue to be in effect unless terminated upon written notification of 90 days' minimum notice either by Frontex or by NSC.

Done in Yerevan on the February 22, 2012 in two original copies in English.

**For the European Agency for the Management
Operational Cooperation at the External Borders
of the Member States of the European Union**

**For the National Security Council of
of the Republic of Armenia**

[signed]

[signed]

**Ilkka Laitinen
Executive Director**

**Artur Baghdasaryan
Secretary of the NSC**