

WORKING ARRANGEMENT

**on the establishment of 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 State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus.

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 State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus,

Proceeding from their aspiration to promote the development of operational/technical cooperation between Frontex and the State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus,

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

1. Basic principles

Frontex and the State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus emphasise that the intended cooperation shall be developed gradually. The aim is to work towards a sustainable partnership.

2. Objectives

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

(2) To strengthen security at the borders between EU Member States and Belarus.

(3) To develop good relations and mutual trust between border guard authorities of the EU Member States and the State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus.

(4) To facilitate measures taken by Frontex and the State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus.

3. Contents

(1) Development of activities in the field of information exchange and risk analyses aimed at improving the efficiency of border control at the borders between EU Member States and Belarus.

(2) Development of activities in the field of training as well as in the field of research and development related to border management.

(3) Coordination of certain joint operational measures and pilot projects for maintaining and improving border control between EU Member States and Belarus, as well as technical improvement of these measures.

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

(5) Improvement of the operational interoperability between the border guard organisations of the EU Member States and the State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus.

4. Organisation

(1) A structured dialogue on the operational cooperation in border-related matters will be maintained between the Executive Director of Frontex and the Chairman of the State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus.

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

5. Amendment of the working arrangement

This Working Arrangement can be amended on the basis of mutual consent of Frontex and the State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus.

6. Financial aspects

The participation of the State Border Committee of the Republic of Belarus 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 Union and Belarus.

Done in Norviliškės castle (Lithuania) on the 21st of October 2009 in two copies in English and Russian language.

The English version prevails.

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

[signed]

**Ilkka Laitinen
Executive Director**

**For the State Border Committee of the
Republic of Belarus**

[signed]

**Igor Rachskovsky
Chairman of the State Border Committee
of the Republic of Belarus**