



MANAGEMENT BOARD DECISION No 51/2015 of 26 November 2015

on Frontex Liaison Office in Piraeus / EU Regional Task Force Office

THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Having regard to the Frontex Regulation¹, and in particular Article 16 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Pursuant to Article 4 of Management Board Decision No 1/2010 of 4 February 2010, Frontex Management Board established the first Frontex Operational Office (FOO) as a pilot project.
- (2) Pursuant to Article 6 of Management Board Decision No 1/2010, the first pilot project FOO was evaluated and on the basis of this evaluation Frontex Management Board decided on 20 March 2012 to extend the duration of the pilot project until 31 December 2013.
- (3) Pursuant to Article 1(1) of Management Board Decision No 18/2013 of 25 September 2013, the Management Board decided that the Frontex Operational Office is operational until 31 December 2015.
- (4) The internal assessment of the Frontex Operational Office (renamed Frontex Liaison Office) led to the conclusion that the working practices applied by the Frontex Liaison Office are effective and allow it to conduct its tasks to the expectations of the stakeholders.
- (5) Having an EU office close to high migratory flows means not only being able to better coordinate the exchange of information between the EU agencies, but also working directly with the local authorities on the ground.
- (6) It is necessary to convert the FLO into an EU Regional Task Force Office.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1 EU Regional Task Force Office

1. The Frontex Liaison Office in Piraeus is hereby transformed to fulfil the functions and tasks of an EU Regional Task Force Office.
2. This mandate ends on 31 December 2017.

¹ 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.

3. The Executive Director takes all the appropriate measures with the Greek authorities in order to ensure that the rights and privileges enjoyed by the Frontex Operational Office / Frontex Liaison Office are vested in the Frontex Liaison Office / EU Regional Task Force Office.
4. Before the end of the period set forth in paragraph 2, the Executive Director will prepare a proposal for a new Management Board decision on the future of the EU Regional Task Force Office.

Article 2 Tasks

1. The EU Regional Task Force Office provides the platform of a shared office to representatives of EU entities where they can work together to coordinate the EU assistance to the national authorities for identification, registration and return as well as for criminal investigations of people-smuggling networks, which takes place either at ports or in specific reception centres, *inter alia*.
2. The EU Regional Task Force Office concentrates on hotspots of irregular migration and other border security risks in particular, that require a reinforced presence of Frontex and other EU entities.
3. The tasks of the EU Regional Task Force Office are described in the annex to this decision. The practical implementation of tasks is prioritised by the Executive Director according to the operational needs.

Article 3 Resource allocation

The Executive Director decides on resource allocation for the effective and efficient implementation of tasks mentioned in Article 2.

Article 4 Repeal

The Management Board Decision No 18/2013 of 25 September 2013 is hereby repealed.

Article 5 Entry into force

This decision enters into force on the day following the date of its adoption.

Done in Warsaw, on 26 November 2015

For the Management Board

[signed]

Ralf Göbel
Chairperson

ANNEX:

Tasks of the EU Regional Task Force Office

In particular, the office supports the operational management of Frontex' coordinated operational activities carried out in hotspots or in the relevant areas:

1. Acting as an interface between Frontex and the local authorities;
2. Networking with all relevant stakeholders involved in the host Member State for operational coordination and intelligence gathering;
3. Monitoring the implementation of the operational plans;
4. Gathering and assessing information and intelligence for risk analysis purposes;
5. Facilitating cooperation with other EU agencies (e.g. EASO, Europol) and bodies or international organisations;
6. Providing support to all resources during their period of deployment in the operational area;
7. Providing logistical and operational support regarding experts and assets deployed by Frontex and other partners;
8. Supporting organisation and accomplishment of operational briefings and debriefings of deployed experts and crews;
9. Performing field visits in the operational areas aiming at monitoring implementation;
10. Providing the operational managers (e.g. Frontex Coordinating Officers) with information, remarks, comments and proposals on the implementation of the operations;
11. Being involved in the introduction and training of experts in order to increase local authorities' capacity.