MANAGEMENT BOARD DECISION No 13/2016 of 15 June 2016

adopting the assessment on the Frontex Annual Activity Report 2015

THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Having regard to the Frontex Financial Regulation\(^1\), in particular Article 47 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) the consolidated annual report was submitted to the Management Board’s assessment on 12 May 2016;
(2) the assessment on the Frontex Annual Activity Report was elaborated by the Management Board Working Group on Budget and Accounts;
(3) no later than 1 July each year the consolidated annual activity report together with its assessment shall be sent by the Management Board to the Court of Auditors, to the Commission, to the European Parliament and the Council;

HAS DECIDED ASfollows:

Article 1
Subject

The assessment on the Frontex Annual Activity Report 2015 in the Annex is hereby adopted.

Article 2
Entry into force

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

Done in Warsaw, 15 June 2016

For the Management Board

[signed]

Marko Gašperlin
Chairperson

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\(^1\) Management Board Decision No 1/2014 from 8 January 2014.
ANNEX

Assessment of the Management Board of the Frontex Annual Activity Report 2015

I. Legal Basis and Procedure

In accordance with Article 47(2) of the Frontex Financial Regulation\(^2\), no later than 01 July each year, the Management Board shall send to the Commission, the budgetary authority (the European Parliament and the Council), and the Court of Auditors the consolidated Annual Activity Report and its assessment.

The structure of the Frontex Annual Activity Report 2015 is based on Commission’s instructions. The document starts with an executive summary, which is followed by three chapters and the Declaration of Assurance by the Executive Director.

The first chapter of the report contains a summary of key results and progress made in 2015 towards the achievement of the general and specific objectives of the Agency.

The second chapter under heading “Budgetary and financial management” reports mainly on the implementation of appropriations, transfers and amendments and procurement procedures.

The third chapter focuses on governance and management issues, assessment of audit results and follow up of audit recommendations, as well as assessment of the effectiveness of the internal control system.

The report concludes with the “Declaration of Assurance” by the Executive Director where nine areas for improvement are noted.

The Frontex Annual Activity Report 2015 was transmitted to the Management Board for its assessment on 12 May 2016.

II. Assessment of the Frontex Annual Activity Report 2015

The Management Board observes and welcomes the improvements called for in the 2014 Annual Activity Report’s assessment as regards the general readability and quality of the document, including its length and layout.

Moreover, also in line with previous suggestion, the Annual Activity Report 2015 includes a comprehensive section on the outcome of audits performed by the European Court of Auditors, the Internal Audit Services of the European Commission and ex-post controls as well as the state of play of audit recommendations, which all constitute the underlying foundation for the management assurance.

As for the utilization of the 2015 budget, the Management Board takes note of improvements made in the execution of appropriations compared to previous year, especially the execution of 2015 commitment and payment appropriations has improved in comparison with the 2014 budget (100% vs 99% in 2014 for Commitment Appropriations, and 69% vs 69% in 2014 for Payment Appropriations). The execution of 2014 appropriations carried over to 2015 has slightly deteriorated, from 91% to 84%, as compared to the implementation of the 2013 appropriations in the 2014 budget. However, the Management Board calls on the Agency to continue to make further efforts, including the improvement of collaboration with the Member States, to ensure

\(^2\) Management Board Decision No 1 / 2014
full use of appropriations carried over in order to avoid that substantial resources are de-committing as in the previous years.

Also, the Management Board welcomes the inclusion of main types of risks in chapter 3 of the present report, in line with the previous years’ assessment, along with the mitigating measures and the steps to be taken in 2016 to address these shortcomings.

Furthermore, the Management Board recommends to the Agency to continue making efforts to improve the quality of the report by paying special attention to the coherence between different parts of the document and coherence of the report to the corresponding annual work programme.

The Management Board invites the Executive Director to address the above points in the Annual Activity Report for the coming year.