THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Having regard to the European Border and Coast Guard Regulation¹, in particular Article 55 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The operational cooperation with third countries in particular those that are countries of origin and/or transit of migratory flows is to be strengthened.

(2) The risk analysis of Frontex shows that the Western Balkan region constitutes a region of origin, transit and destination of irregular migration.

(3) The Western Balkan Region comprises Albania, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo².

(4) Frontex should prioritize cooperation with Western Balkan Countries in view of their (recognized and potential) EU Candidate status.

(5) The Management Board decided, in its 58th meeting on 30/31 March 2016, to prioritise the Western Balkan Region as a region for the deployment of a Frontex Liaison Officer.

(6) At the 61st Management Board meeting the European Commission expressed its positive opinion on the deployment of a Frontex Liaison Officer to the Western Balkans.

(7) The European External Action Service expressed its agreement to the posting of the Liaison Officer to the EU Delegation in Serbia.

(8) Working Arrangements establishing operational cooperation between Frontex and the competent authorities of Albania, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo are in place.


² This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.
HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
Subject

The deployment of a Frontex Liaison Officer to the Western Balkans Region, to be posted in Belgrade, Serbia, is hereby approved.

Article 2
Tasks

The Frontex Liaison Officer to the Western Balkans is entrusted to develop and maintain operational cooperation and coordination between Frontex and the Western Balkan countries (Albania, Serbia, Bosnia in Herzegovina, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo) in line with the Agency’s mandate and its Annual Programme of Work.

Article 3
Posting and Deployment

1. The Frontex Liaison Officer to the Western Balkans will be posted to the EU Delegation in Belgrade.

2. The Executive Director will inform the Management Board on the date of the effective deployment of the Frontex Liaison Officer.

Article 4
Entry into force

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

Done in Warsaw, 23 November 2016

For the Management Board

[signed]
Marko Gašperlin
Chairperson