

## **MANAGEMENT BOARD DECISION 36/2016 of 23 November 2016**

### **on the deployment of a Frontex Liaison Officer to the Western Balkans Region**

#### **THE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

Having regard to the European Border and Coast Guard Regulation<sup>1</sup>, 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 Kosovo<sup>2</sup>.
- (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 58<sup>th</sup> 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 61<sup>st</sup> 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/1624 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2016 on the European Border and Coast Guard and amending Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EC) No 863/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulation (EC) No 2007/2004 and Council Decision 2005/267/EC (OJ L 251, 16.09. 2016, p. 1).

<sup>2</sup> 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