MANAGEMENT BOARD DECISION 26/2019
14 October 2019

on the launch of an open call of applications for the new composition of the Consultative Forum and on setting out main composition criteria

THE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Having regard to the European Border and Coast Guard Regulation¹ (hereinafter the “Regulation”), in particular Article 70(2) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The Agency established a Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights in 2012 (hereinafter the “Forum”). According to Article 70(1) of the Regulation, the Forum shall assist the Executive Director and the Management Board with independent advice in fundamental rights matters.

(2) Pursuant to Article 70(2) of the Regulation, the current composition of the Forum was established by Management Board Decision No 29/2015². The term of mandate of the current Forum was extended twice and it ends on 31 December 2019³.

(3) The European Asylum Support Office (EASO), the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) were invited to the Forum pursuant to Article 70(2) of the Regulation. The Council of Europe (CoE), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe - Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE ODIHR) were also invited to participate in the current Forum by Management Board Decision No 29/2015 due to their mandate and expertise in the promotion and respect of Fundamental Rights in the field of border and migration management.

(4) Pursuant to Management Board Decision No 29/2015 and following a public call for applications, nine civil society organisations were also invited by the Management Board to participate in the current Forum.

(5) Considering the forthcoming expiry of the mandate of the current Forum and the need to ensure its uninterrupted operation, it is necessary to launch a new open call for applications for civil society organisations to form a new composition of the Forum.

² Management Board Decision 29/2015 of 9 September 2015 on the composition of the Frontex Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights. See also Management Board Decision 24/2017 of 1 September 2017 selecting and inviting the proposed Civil Society Organisation to become a member of the Consultative Forum.
Pursuant to Article 70(2) of the Regulation, the Agency shall invite relevant organisations to participate in the Forum. In order to make the selection process transparent it is opportune to define, in advance, main criteria, which should guide how the composition of the Forum is determined. It is also necessary to ensure that sufficient financial resources are devoted to the selection process.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
Launch of an open call

The Management Board hereby decides to launch an open call for applications from civil society organisations to be part of a new composition of the Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights for a period of three years from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2022.

Article 2
Main criteria

The list of main criteria, which shall guide the composition of the Consultative Forum, as set out in the annex to this Decision, is hereby adopted.

Article 3
Costs

The Executive Director shall ensure resources necessary for the selection procedure including the reimbursement of travel and accommodation costs of representatives of candidate organisations invited for selection interviews.

Article 4
Entry into Force

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

Done by written procedure, 14 October 2019.

For the Management Board

[signed]
Marko Gašperlin
Chairperson

Annex:
The list of main criteria for the composition of the Consultative Forum.
The list of main criteria for the composition of the Consultative Forum

1. **Expertise**: a high level of established knowledge and expertise in the areas relevant to the Consultative Forum, namely advising Frontex on fundamental rights in the context of migration, border management and policing.

2. **Proven track record**: practical, hands-on experience or legal and advisory work in dealing with migrants/refugees, in particular vulnerable persons. Capacity to work with and provide fundamental rights advice to authorities and other actors involved on migration, border management or policing.

3. **Relevance**: past or ongoing involvement in EU projects/actions on fundamental rights; it may include training or setting-up concrete standard operating procedures or academic work or otherwise advisory activities in the field of migration, border management or policing.

4. **Extent**: degree of presence at the national, regional, European or international level (including in third countries). The organisation’s geographical area of interest.

5. **Independence**: neutrality, impartiality and abstention from any political affiliations.

6. **Acknowledgment**: degree of recognition of its work by other relevant actors which are not members of the Consultative Forum.

7. **Relations**: past or ongoing involvement in EU projects/actions including training or academic activities in the field of migration and border management or policing.

8. **Ability to work with a wide range of organisations of different nature**: including public institutions (law enforcement), international organisations and non-governmental organisations, in order to encourage and foster mutual understanding and respect.

9. **Commitment to transparency and accountability**: account taken of the possible sensitive character of certain documents, the applicant should commit that - in case the applicant is selected as a member of the Forum - its nominated representatives in the Forum will produce, before its first meeting, a criminal record certificate not older than 6 months, as well as a declaration in relation to interests that might be considered as prejudicial to their independence. Readiness of the organisation to disclose information on its stakeholders (e.g. donors, States and Governments, the public).