MINUTES
OF THE 65th MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD
13-14 JUNE 2017 IN WARSAW, POLAND

List of attendance

Mr Marko GAŠPERLIN - Chairman of the Management Board
Mr Robert STRONDL (Austria - AT)
Mr Wald THIELEMANS (Belgium - BE)
Mr Svetlan KICHIKOV (Bulgaria - BG)
Mr Zoran NIČENO (Croatia - HR)
Mr Petros ZENIOU (Cyprus - CY)
Mr Milan MAJER (Czech Republic - CZ)
Ms Signe Højland JENSEN (Denmark - DK)
Ms Helen NEIDER-VEERME (Estonia - EE)
Mr Ilkka LAITINEN (Finland - FI)
Mr Bernard SIFFERT (France - FR)
Mr Ralf GÖBEL (Germany - DE)
Mr Dimitrios MALLIOS (Greece - EL)
Mr Laszlo BALAZS (Hungary - HU)
Mr Jón Pétur JÓNSSON (Iceland - IS)
Mr David DOWLING (Ireland - IE)
Mr Giovanni PINTO (Italy - IT)
Mr Vladimir ZAGUZOVS (Latvia - LV)
Mr Peter STADELMAN (Liechtenstein - LI)
Mr Vygintas KAZIUKONIS (Lithuania - LT)
Mr Thierry FEHR (Luxembourg - LU)
Mr Neville XUEREB (Malta - MT)
Mr Marty MESSERSCHMIDT (The Netherlands - NL)
Mr Jan Erik NYBAKK (Norway - NO)
Mr Marek LAPIŃSKI (Poland - PL)
Mr Joaquim OLIVEIRA (Portugal - PT)
Mr Liviu-Marius GALOS (Romania - RO)
Ms Martina MATUŠKOVIČOVÁ (Slovak Republic - SK)
Ms Melita MOČNIK (Slovenia - SI)
Mr Joaquín CASTRO LEÓN (Spain - ES)
Ms Marianne PERSSON (Sweden - SE)
Ms Julia TERVEER (Switzerland - CH)
Mr Matt BECKINGHAM (United Kingdom - UK)

Mr Laurent MUSCHEL (European Commission - COM)

Mr Oldřich MARTINŮ (Deputy Director, Governance, Europol)
Mr Robert CRÉPINKO (Head of Unit, Europol Migrant Smuggling Centre, Europol)
Mr Timothy COOPER (Liaison Officer to Frontex, EASO)

Frontex Executive Director (ED), Mr Fabrice LEGGERI participated in the meeting.

The Secretariat of the Management Board was provided by Frontex.
List of items debated and/or approved (agenda)

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Approval of the minutes of the 64th Management Board meeting
3. Recent internal developments and procedural issues
4. Presentation of operational situation
   4.1 Monitoring of the situation at the external borders
   4.2 Operational response and use of resources
   4.3 Activities in the field of return
   4.4 Involvement of organised crime in migrant smuggling - perspective of Europol
5. Implementation of the new Regulation
6. Report from the Fundamental Rights Officer
   7.1 Decision of the Management Board adopting annual activity report (former General Report) in line with Article 62(2j) of the EBCG Regulation
   7.2 Decision of the Management Board adopting Management Board’s assessment of the Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2016 in line with Article 47(1) of the Frontex Financial Regulation
8. Decision on the Management Board’s opinion on Frontex final accounts for 2016
9. Presentation of the action plan as follow up on the evaluation of the Monitoring and Risk Analysis function and evaluation on the design of the evaluation of Joint Operations and Pilot projects
10. Decision of the Management Board on the future deployment of Frontex Liaison Officers in Member States
11. Decision of the Management Board on the sign of appreciation for the Management Board Members
12. Decision of the Management Board adopting Agency’s new organizational structure
   13.1 Presentation of the core elements of plan of operations 2018 as part of the draft Programme of Work 2018
   13.2 Presentation of the core elements of training portfolio 2018 as part of the draft Programme of Work 2018
   13.3 ABN 2018
14. Decision of the Management Board adopting the rules relating to technical equipment to be deployed in Frontex coordinated activities in 2018; including a rapid reaction equipment pool and MNITE
15. Discussion on the draft strategy for the acquisition of technical equipment
16. Vulnerability assessment implementation - update
17. Draft technical and operational strategy for the European integrated border management
18. European Parliament’s decision on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Agency for the financial year 2015
19. Nominations of the border guards to the rapid reaction pool
20. Ratification of the Headquarters Agreement by Poland
21. Executive management annual appraisals 2016
22. Reporting on the exercise of the appointing authority powers
23. Implementation of the Programme of Work 2017 - Budget implementation
24. Presentation of the border management related activities by the incoming EU Council Presidency Estonia
Main results of the meeting

The 65th Management Board meeting was held on 13-14 June 2017 in Warsaw, Poland.

The Management Board was informed about recent internal developments and procedural issues including information on the recruitment of Frontex Liaison Officers to Niger and to Western Balkans, renewal of the contract of employment of the Fundamental Rights Officer as well as an update on the staffing and recruitment statistics. The Executive Director briefed the Management Board on the latest developments related to International and European Cooperation, and informed that the International Border Police Conference is scheduled to take place in Warsaw on 7-8 November 2017.

The Chair notified about three recently held events: the 13th Meeting of the Frontex Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights, the closing workshop of the pilot project “Creation of a European Coastguard Function” and the first graduation ceremony of the European Joint Master’s in Strategic Border Management.

The Management Board was briefed on the operational situation at the external borders of the European Union. Europol provided the information on the horizontal activities of the Europol Smuggling Centre, including activities performed in cooperation with Frontex.

The Agency provided information about the progress in the implementation of the new Regulation and updated on specific work packages. The Commission informed the Management Board on the 4th progress report on the operationalization of the European Border and Coast Guard adopted on 13 June 2017.

The Fundamental Rights Officer presented the XIX Fundamental Rights Officer report to the Management Board covering the period from 1 March to 23 May 2017 as well as the General Report on Serious Incident Reports in 2016 covering the period from January to December 2016. The Management Board was informed about Caritas’ resignation from the membership in the Consultative Forum, consequently the Executive Director prepared the open call to fill in the vacancy. It was decided that the call would be approved by written procedure.

Frontex’ Management Report 2016 was presented to the Management Board. The Management Board agreed with the content of the Annual Activity Report in line with Article 62(2j) of the European Border and Coast Guard Regulation and on the Annual Activity Report 2016 in line with Article 47(1) of the Frontex Financial Regulation. It was announced that there is still a procedural issue. It was therefore decided that after clarification of this technical aspect, a written procedure will be launched to adopt the report and the assessment, complying with the deadline of 1 July 2017.

The decision on the Management Board’s opinion on Frontex final accounts for 2016 was presented to be adopted by written procedure.

The Management Board took note on the action plan prepared as a follow up on the evaluation of the Monitoring and Risk Analysis function and evaluation on the design of the evaluation of Joint Operations and Pilot projects. The Agency has ensured to report on the further updates on a regular basis.

The decision of the Management Board on the future deployment of Frontex Liaison Officers in Member States was approved, after clarification had been made that it can be revised in case of need and that any outstanding issues will be clarified when negotiating specific Memoranda of Understanding.

The Management Board adopted the decision on the sign of appreciation for the Management Board Members.

The Decision of the Management Board on Agency’s new organizational structure was adopted, with minor amendments after suggestions and comments expressed by the Delegations during the meeting. Added was furthermore that the structure will be reviewed in February 2018.
The Programming Document 2018-2020 was presented to the Management Board (to be adopted in next meeting) including presentation of the core elements of the plan of operations 2018 as part of the draft Programme of Work 2018, presentation of the core elements of the training portfolio 2018 as part of the draft Programme of Work 2018 as well as presentation on the Annual Bilateral Negotiations 2018, including new financing scheme.

The Management Board adopted the decision on the rules relating to technical equipment to be deployed in Frontex coordinated activities in 2018, including a rapid reaction equipment pool and MNITE as well as discussed the draft strategy for the acquisition of technical equipment with the aim to facilitate the future planning and functioning of the Agency.

The Executive Director briefed the Management Board on the current state of play of the Vulnerability Assessment implementation and main aspects in accordance to the adopted methodology and in line with the agreed implementation plan with core processes being: Baseline assessments, recommendations, simulations and emerging threat assessments. Questions and comments were collected. Results will be presented during the Management Board’s meeting in November 2017.

The Management Board took note on the draft technical and operational strategy for the European Integrated Border Management as well as on the European Parliament’s decision on discharge in respect of the implementation of the budget of the Agency for the financial year 2015.

The Management Board discussed several options on how to nominate border guards to the rapid reaction pool. The topic will be further developed and put on the agenda of the next Management Board meeting.

The status of the Ratification-process by Poland concerning the Headquarters Agreement was presented to the Management Board. The Agreement was submitted to the competent Ministries for further consideration and subsequent approval by the Polish Parliament.

The Management Boards took note of the Executive management annual appraisals for the year 2016 and of the Reporting on the exercise of the appointing authority powers as well as on the Implementation of the Programme of Work 2017 and Budget implementation covering the period from 1 January to 31 May 2017.

The Management Board was briefed on border management related activities by the incoming EU Council Presidency of Estonia. The Agency will be approached at the beginning of July with a proposal to include the visit to the land borders in the programme of the next Management Board meeting to be hosted by Estonia.

EUROGENDFORCe (European Gendarmerie Force) provided an overview its activities and main objectives as well as ongoing deployment missions.

The Executive Director informed about two new technical assistance projects in third countries with funding from DG DEVCO and DG NEAR, notifying that the Program of Work and the respected budget will be amended accordingly as soon as the delegations are signed.

The Management Board accepted the invitation from Bulgaria to hold the Management Board meeting in Sofia on 7-8 February 2018 during the Bulgarian Presidency of the EU Council.