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# **Working Arrangement**

between

**the European Border  
and Coast Guard Agency  
(Frontex)**

and

**the European Union Agency for Asylum  
(EUAA)**

The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (hereinafter referred to as "Frontex"), represented by its Executive Director, Mr Hans Leijtens, on the one side,

and

The European Union Agency for Asylum (hereinafter referred to as "EUAA"), represented by its Executive Director, Ms Nina Gregori, on the other side,

hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Agencies" or "Sides", or individually as the "Agencies" or a "Side",

have agreed as follows:

## BACKGROUND

- (1) The cooperation and coordination of activities between the Sides are essential for the proper implementation of the European Integrated Border Management (hereinafter referred to as "EIBM") and the Common European Asylum System (hereinafter referred to as "CEAS"), in particular for the screening and registration of third-country nationals arriving irregularly at the EU external borders, including the identification of persons who are in need of international protection or individuals in a situation of vulnerability.
- (2) On 26 September 2012, Frontex and the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) concluded a working arrangement to establish a cooperation framework covering the relevant areas of common work and interest, setting the objectives and principles of such cooperation. Since then, the EASO was replaced by the EUAA and the mandates of both Sides have been amended, and their activities and cooperation have evolved. Therefore, a new working arrangement should be concluded.
- (3) The Sides are committed to coordinated, integrated and effective cooperation in providing technical and operational assistance to the Member States<sup>1</sup>, especially in the event of specific and disproportionate migratory challenges in the sections of the European Union's external borders characterised by large migratory flows, or where Member States' asylum or reception systems are subject to disproportionate migratory pressure.
- (4) On the basis of Article 68(1)(c) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Border and Coast Guard<sup>2</sup> (hereinafter referred to as the "EBCG Regulation") and Article 37 of Regulation (EU) 2021/2303 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Union Agency for Asylum<sup>3</sup> (hereinafter referred to as "EUAA Regulation"), the Sides should, within the limits of their respective mandates, coordinate their activities and support Member States to facilitate procedures regarding international protection and return procedure activities with regard to third-country nationals. The Sides should also cooperate in regard to other areas

<sup>1</sup> The Member States referred to in this Working Arrangement include EU Member States and Schengen associated countries unless they are explicitly referred to as "EU Member States".

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 November 2019 on the European Border and Coast Guard (OJ L 295, 14.11. 2019, p. 1).

<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/2303 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2021 on the European Union Agency for Asylum (OJ L 468, 30.12. 2021, p. 1).

within their respective mandates, such as common operational activities, including in the framework of Migration Management Support Teams, shared risk analysis, the collection, exchange and analysis of information and statistical data, training, support to Member States in connection with contingency planning, and representation in each other's Consultative Fora and Management Board meetings.

- (5) The Sides acknowledge their collaboration with the Commission and other Union Agencies in the framework of the European Union Mechanism for Preparedness and Management of Crises Related to Migration<sup>4</sup>, in view of ensuring regular situational monitoring, and reporting on the migratory situation, including an early warning and forecasting.
- (6) The Sides agree to cooperate closely on matters related to the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, including in relation to the Screening Regulation, which are covered in the areas of cooperation listed in this arrangement.
- (7) The Sides guarantee the protection of fundamental rights in the performance of their tasks in accordance with relevant Union law, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and relevant international law, in particular the Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951, as amended by the New York Protocol of 31 January 1967, and the principle of *non-refoulement*.
- (8) By Decision C(2025) 8751, based on Article 68(2) of the EBCG Regulation and Article 37(2) of the EUAA Regulation, the European Commission gave its prior approval to this working arrangement<sup>4</sup>.
- (9) In accordance with Article 41(1)(ac) of the EUAA Regulation, the Management Board of the EUAA has authorised and approved the conclusion of this working arrangement<sup>5</sup>.
- (10) Pursuant to Article 68(2) of the EBCG Regulation and Article 37(2) of the EUAA Regulation, the European Parliament and the Council should be informed of this working arrangement.

## Section 1

### Scope and purpose of the working arrangement

1. This working arrangement establishes the framework for close cooperation between the Sides, within the existing limits of their respective mandates, and in conformity with the applicable national, European Union and international legal frameworks.
2. The cooperation between the Sides aims at supporting the Member States by providing technical and operational assistance in addressing challenges in migration, return, asylum and reception systems, supporting the implementation of the EIBM and the CEAS and coordinating and strengthening cooperation and information exchange.

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<sup>4</sup> Commission Decision of 17.12.2025 approving the working arrangement between the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) and the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) (C(2025) 8751 final).

<sup>5</sup> Note EUAA/MB/2026/009 of 19 January 2026 on the outcome of the written procedure for the authorisation and approval of the present working arrangement by the EUAA Management Board.

3. The Sides endeavour to implement this working arrangement in a manner that will maximise effectiveness, create synergies and avoid duplication of efforts.

## Section 2

### Areas of cooperation

1. The Sides intend to cooperate in accordance with the terms of this working arrangement, their respective mandates and with the applicable financial rules and regulations.
2. The Sides may cooperate in the following areas, in particular:
  - (1) Operational matters, through:
    - i. Coordinating, actively participating in, and contributing to operational activities by the Sides, especially in situations of disproportionate migratory challenges at the external borders. This includes contributing to the deployments in the framework of the Migration Management Support Teams, including in hotspot areas and/or within similar structures coordinated by the European Commission, which involves the deployment of the European Border and Coast Guard standing corps and/or Asylum Support Teams, including from the Asylum Reserve Pool when appropriate, as well as establishing synergies, exchanging information, and enhancing collaborative efforts.
    - ii. Coordinating and aligning activities by the Sides in areas relevant for both access to international protection and return of third-country nationals whose applications for international protection have been rejected.
    - iii. Coordinating the implementation of operational activities by the Sides.
    - iv. Ensuring respect for and promotion of fundamental rights, access to international protection and the principle of *non-refoulement*.
  - (2) Exchange of anonymised statistical aggregated and disaggregated data in full respect of existing data policies.
  - (3) Developing joint or contributing to or reviewing the other Side's products as appropriate, such as:
    - i. Strategic and tailored analyses.
    - ii. Country and nationality profile reports.
    - iii. Guides and tools.
    - iv. Workflows and standard operating procedures.
  - (4) Situational monitoring including enhanced information exchange in the case of crisis and close coordination on contributions to crisis prediction and forecasting.
  - (5) Cooperating and exchanging information within the framework of EUROSUR, in line with Section 4.

- (6) Seeking synergies between the EUAA monitoring mechanism and the Frontex vulnerability assessment.
- (7) Interoperability between EU information systems in the area of justice and home affairs, including access to and analysis of anonymised statistical data.
- (8) Supporting Member States in the operational implementation of Eurodac<sup>6</sup>, including registration procedures.
- (9) Safeguarding the respect and promotion of fundamental rights - including through cooperation between the Sides' Fundamental Rights Officers and the Sides' Data Protection Officers for instances related to or involving personal data protection.
- (10) Occupational safety and health.
- (11) Implementation of Multiannual Strategic Policy and the Technical and Operational Strategy for EIBM.
- (12) Capability development.
- (13) Training and capacity building, including through consultations on the development of training materials and joint development thereof, a mutual participation in training activities, exchange of best practices or staff exchange programmes.
- (14) Research and innovation including in the fields of early warning and forecasting.
- (15) Coordination and cooperation between the Sides' liaison officers and the Sides' liaison officers networks. This would include procedures of cooperation with other liaison officers, including also in the framework of the European network of Immigration liaison officers<sup>7</sup>.
- (16) Exchange of best practices regarding deployment of personnel and experts to Member States and third countries.
- (17) Coordination of activities in the external dimension where relevant, in particular with regard to third countries and international organisations.
- (18) Respective planning and programming cycles.
- (19) Contingency planning as defined in the respective legal frameworks of the Sides.
- (20) Collaborating on provision of information and counselling in the areas of return.
- (21) Non-technical and administrative matters such as procurement, human resources, communication, and cooperation between Data Protection Officers, as appropriate.
- (22) Other areas within the Sides' respective mandates, where the other Side's expertise or support is relevant.

3. The Sides participate as members of their respective Consultative Fora and exchange best practices on their consultation activities with a view to streamlining those activities where relevant.

<sup>6</sup> Regulation (EU) No 603/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on the establishment of 'Eurodac' (OJ L 180, 29.6.2013, p. 1).

<sup>7</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/1240 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the creation of a European network of immigration liaison officers (recast)

4. The details of the implementation of the cooperation between the Sides may be set out through the establishment of additional measures addressing specific aspects of the cooperation, such as through cooperation plans.

## Section 3

### Exchange of information

1. Any exchange or sharing of classified information between the Sides in the framework of this arrangement will be set out in a separate administrative arrangement.
2. Any exchange or sharing of sensitive non-classified information under this working arrangement<sup>8</sup>:
  - (1) will be handled by Frontex in accordance with Article 9 of Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/443<sup>9</sup>, Article 20 of Management Board Decision 45/2022<sup>10</sup> and the relevant Frontex implementing rules for marking and handling of sensitive non-classified information, and its successors<sup>11</sup>;
  - (2) will be handled by the EUAA in accordance with Article 9 of Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/443, as well as any relevant internal acts and handling instructions adopted pursuant to Management Board Decision No 109, and its successors<sup>12</sup>;
  - (3) will receive a level of protection by the receiving Side that is equivalent to the level of protection offered by the measures applied to that information by the communicating Side in terms of confidentiality, integrity and availability;
  - (4) if conducted via information exchange systems, will only be done via such systems that fulfil the criteria of availability, confidentiality and integrity for sensitive non-classified information.
3. The Sides might mutually provide access to various applications and information systems in accordance with their respective legal framework and in accordance with the provisions of this working arrangement.

## Section 4

### EUROSUR

1. The Sides may use the framework of EUROSUR for the exchange of information and for operational cooperation to improve situational awareness and to increase reaction capability for the purposes of border management, including the detection, prevention and combating of illegal immigration and cross-border crime and contributing to ensuring the protection and

<sup>8</sup> On the part of the EUAA, this working arrangement constitutes a Memorandum of Understanding for the purposes of Article 9(3) of the Decision of the Executive Director No 49 of 14 May 2024 on the handling of sensitive non-classified and RESTRICTED information.

<sup>9</sup> Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/443 of 13 March 2015 on Security in the Commission (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 41-52).

<sup>10</sup> Management Board Decision 45/2022 of 30 July 2022 adopting Security Rules of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex).

<sup>11</sup> Decision of the Executive Director No R-ED-2023-60 on the implementing rules for marking and handling sensitive non-classified information.

<sup>12</sup> Management Board Decision 109 of 8 July 2022 establishing measures on the application of the security principles relating to the processing of sensitive non-classified information.

saving the lives of migrants within the limits of the Agencies' respective mandates, and in accordance with this working arrangement.

2. Such exchange of information and operational cooperation in the framework of EUROSUR may take place through specific situational picture(s), in line with Article 27 of the EBCG Regulation and in accordance with the requirements laid down in the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/581<sup>13</sup>.
3. Detailed rules regarding how specific situational picture(s) will be established by Frontex and shared with EUAA will be agreed between the Sides, in accordance with Article 26 of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/581, and laid down in accordance with Article 2(4) of the working arrangement. These rules will also cover conditions related to the provision of available information derived from the EUROSUR Fusion Services, as well as any further specific data protection requirement, including purpose limitation and security of information.
4. A specific situational picture will be produced through collection, evaluation, collation, analysis, interpretation, generation, visualisation and dissemination of information and consist of the following information layers:
  - (1) an events layer that includes events and incidents related to unauthorised border crossings and cross-border crime and, where available, information on unauthorised secondary movements for the purpose of understanding migratory trends, volume and routes;
  - (2) an operational layer that contains information on operations, where relevant, including the deployment plan, the area of operations, and the position, time, status and type of assets participating as provided for in the operational plans, if applicable;
  - (3) an analysis layer that contains analysed information which is relevant, in particular to the attribution of impact levels to the external border sections, such as imagery and geo-data, key developments and indicators, analytical reports, and other relevant supporting information.
5. The principles related to data security, including user access, are:
  - (1) Justified need-to-know basis;
  - (2) According to the provisions for the exchange of EU classified information in line with the administrative arrangement referred to in Section 3(1);
  - (3) According to EUROSUR data management policy<sup>14</sup>.
6. EUROSUR cannot be used for any legal or administrative measure taken once the competent authorities have intercepted cross-border criminal activities or unauthorised crossings by persons of the external borders.

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<sup>13</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/581 of 9 April 2021 on the situational picture of the European Border Surveillance System (EUROSUR), (OJ L 124, 12.4.2021, p. 3.).

<sup>14</sup> Decision of the Executive Director No R-ED-2024-97 on EUROSUR data management policy.

## Section 5

### Data protection

When the information to be exchanged between the Sides contains personal data, any transmission of personal data from one Side to another will take place in compliance with the applicable data protection rules, including those of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, the Side's internal rules, the relevant provisions in the Sides' respective founding Regulations, as well as relevant sectoral data processing rules.

Should the need arise, the Sides may agree on more specific rules on personal data exchange in line with the applicable data protection rules.

## Section 6

### Liaison officers and deployment of experts

1. The Sides may appoint and deploy liaison officer(s) to each other and agree on the nature and terms of such deployment.
2. The Sides may temporarily deploy staff, in particular to support the other Side with specific expertise or to support a concrete operational activity or project of joint interest. The deployments are governed by the deploying Side's mission rules, unless specified elsewhere (such as in an operational plan).
3. In order to raise mutual awareness and strengthen cooperation, the Sides may agree on a staff exchange programme.

## Section 7

### Consultations and meetings

To further strengthen cooperation and monitor the implementation of this working arrangement, the Sides agree to maintain periodic contacts with each other where necessary, and in particular to:

- a) Hold joint meetings of the Sides' respective Management Boards.
- b) Hold high-level meetings to discuss matters relating to the implementation of the specific provisions of this working arrangement, as well as topics of mutual interest.
- c) Consult each other at technical and operational level, on policy issues and matters of common interest for the purpose of coordinating their respective activities.
- d) Develop, review and, where appropriate, amend periodically a Cooperation Plan to build upon the areas of cooperation, outlined in this working arrangement, between the Sides in the near to medium term.

## Section 8

### Fundamental rights

1. Any activities implemented on the basis of this working arrangement will be conducted in full compliance with fundamental rights, as enshrined in the applicable Union law and international legal instruments, including with regard to access to international protection procedures, the right to life, human dignity and the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the right to liberty and security, the principle of *non-refoulement*, the prohibition of arbitrary detention and the prohibition of collective expulsion, the rights of the child, the right to respect for private and family life, and the protection of personal data.
2. Individuals participating in activities implemented on the basis of this working arrangement on behalf of either Side will, while so doing, not discriminate against persons on any grounds including, but not limited to, sex, race, colour, or ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age, sexual orientation or gender identity.
3. In accordance with the EBCG Regulation and the EUAA Regulation, the Agencies' independent Fundamental Rights Officers are mandated to ensure the compliance of activities implemented by their respective agency on the basis of this working arrangement with applicable fundamental rights standards. The Fundamental Rights Officers, or their deputies, may issue opinions, request appropriate follow-up and inform their respective Executive Directors about possible (risks of) violations of fundamental rights relating to such activities. The Fundamental Rights Officers intend to cooperate in the implementation of their tasks with respect to activities performed under this working arrangement.
4. The Sides intend to apply their respective complaints mechanisms to process allegations of breaches of fundamental rights committed by their staff or deployed experts in the exercise of their official functions in the course of any operational activity performed under this working arrangement. They will endeavour to explore the means of cooperation in order to ensure that complaints are channelled to the Side responsible for handling the complaint, as appropriate.

## Section 9

### Public access to documents

1. Should one of the Sides, under the rules concerning public access to documents<sup>15</sup>, receive an application to disclose a document originating from the other Side or drafted jointly as part of this working arrangement, the requested Side should consult the originating Side prior to any disclosure of the identified document.

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<sup>15</sup> Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43).

2. The originating Side should be given a deadline to revert that enables the other Side to comply with its own deadlines to reply to the applicant. This deadline should not be less than five working days. In the absence of a reply from the originating Side within the deadline, the Side which has received the application may proceed in accordance with its own rules on public access to documents, taking into account the legitimate interest of the originating Side on the basis of available information.
3. Paragraphs 1 and 2 are not to apply if the originating Side has already disclosed the document or if it has given its prior agreement in writing to disclose the document.

## **Section 10**

### **Publicity**

1. Any publicly available material developed in connection with this working arrangement should acknowledge the involvement of both Sides. Where appropriate, each Side should acknowledge the other Side's role in publications, speeches, press releases and similar communication products.
2. One Side may use the name and logo of the other Side only in direct connection with this working arrangement and subject to the latter's prior written consent.

## **Section 11**

### **Expenses**

The Sides bear their own expenses which arise in the course of the implementation of this working arrangement, unless agreed otherwise between the Sides.

## **Section 12**

### **Points of contact**

1. For the implementation of this working arrangement and without prejudice to direct operational contacts, each Side will designate a point of contact via exchange of letters.
2. Where required, the Sides may decide to appoint *ad-hoc* points of contact for specific cooperation activities and projects via exchange of letters.

## Section 13

### Dispute resolution, discontinuation and legal status

1. Any dispute arising out of the interpretation or application of this working arrangement will be resolved through consultations between the Sides and should not be referred to any national, European Union or international tribunal or third party for settlement.
2. Cooperation may continue until the Sides agree that the objectives of this working arrangement have been achieved or until one Side discontinues its participation in this working arrangement.
3. Cooperation may be discontinued by either Side at any time. In case of discontinuation, the Sides will reach an agreement on the continued use and storage of the information exchanged. If no agreement is reached, either of the Sides is entitled to require that the information it has communicated be destroyed or returned to the transmitting Side.
4. This working arrangement constitutes solely an administrative arrangement at technical level. It is not intended to create any right or obligation under national, European Union or international law.

## Section 14

### Discontinuation of existing working arrangement

The working arrangement between the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (Frontex) concluded on 26 September 2012, is hereby discontinued.

## Section 15

### Application

The Sides intend to apply this working arrangement as of the moment both of them have signed it.

The Executive Director of Frontex and the Executive Director of EUAA signed the present working arrangement in two original copies, in English, on 22 January 2026 in Nicosia, Cyprus. Both copies are to be considered as the original versions of this working arrangement.

For the European Border  
and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex)

For the European Union Agency for  
Asylum (EUAA)

[SIGNED]

[SIGNED]

Hans Leijtens

Nina Gregori

Executive Director

Executive Director