



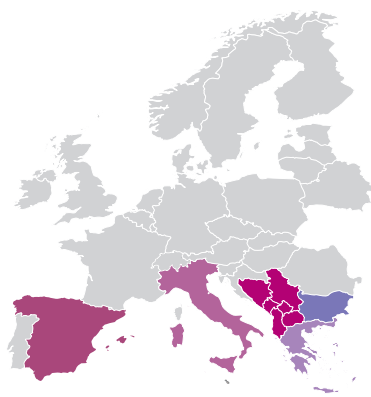
THE EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY

THE COMMISSION'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE LEADERS' AGENDA

#FutureofEurope #EURoad2Sibiu

The **European Border and Coast Guard Agency**, agreed in a record time upon the Commission's proposal, was established in October 2016 to ensure that Europe can better protect its common external borders and is equipped to face any new migration and security challenges. Building on the foundations of Frontex, the new Agency is a powerful tool that supports Member States in their responsibility to control external borders with around 1,400 border guards, complementing the existing national capacities of Member States of over 100,000 border and coast guards. An additional pool of 1,500 border guards is on standby ready to be deployed immediately if an emergency situation at any of the EU's external borders arises. The Agency's operations on land and at sea have helped to better manage migration and secure the EU's external borders, saving hundreds of thousands of lives in the Mediterranean.

CURRENT EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD DEPLOYMENTS:



-  742 officers in Greece
-  137 officers in Bulgaria
-  322 officers in Italy
-  91 officers in the Western Balkans
-  79 officers in Spain

OVER 1,400 OFFICERS ACROSS THE EU

GAPS HAMPERING THE ROLL-OUT OF THE EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY

Over the past year, steps have been taken to operationalise the new Agency, including the setting up of Rapid Reaction Pools for border guards and equipment. Despite repeated calls for Member States to deliver on their commitments, gaps still persist in those pools, especially when it comes to technical equipment. The ongoing joint operations, such as in Bulgaria, Greece and Italy, face similar challenges with a chronic shortage of deployed officers from Member States.

ESTIMATED DEPLOYMENT GAPS IN JANUARY 2018

	Greece	92
	Bulgaria	114

	Italy	18
	Spain	8



RAPID REACTION POOL




There is currently a shortfall of 206 nominations for border guards for the Rapid Reaction Pool of 1,500 officers

MEMBER STATES	REQUIRED CONTRIBUTION	STILL MISSING
AUSTRIA	34	✓
BELGIUM	30	✓
BULGARIA	40	✓
CROATIA	65	✓
CYPRUS	8	X ₈
CZECH REPUBLIC	20	✓
DENMARK	29	✓
ESTONIA	18	✓
FINLAND	30	✓
FRANCE	170	✓
GERMANY	225	✓
GREECE	50	✓
HUNGARY	65	✓
ICELAND*	2	X ₂
ITALY	125	✓

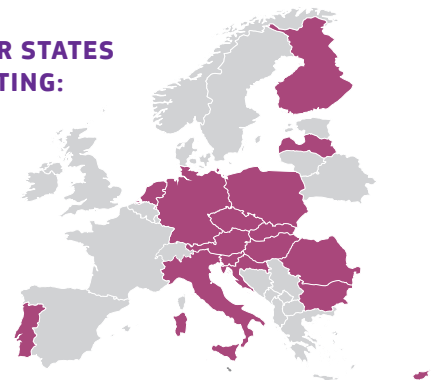
MEMBER STATES	REQUIRED CONTRIBUTION	STILL MISSING
LATVIA	30	✓
LITHUANIA	39	✓
LUXEMBOURG	8	X ₁
MALTA	6	✓
NETHERLANDS	50	✓
NORWAY*	20	X ₈
POLAND	100	✓
PORTUGAL	47	X ₄₂
ROMANIA	75	✓
SLOVAKIA	35	X ₃₁
SLOVENIA	35	X ₃
SPAIN	111	X ₁₁₁
SWEDEN	17	✓
SWITZERLAND*	16	✓
TOTAL:	1,500	206

RAPID REACTION EQUIPMENT POOL

Only **14 Member States** are currently contributing technical equipment to the Rapid Reaction Equipment Pool, leaving considerable gaps.

TYPE OF EQUIPMENT	STILL MISSING (ASSETS - MONTH)
	53
	33
	78

14 MEMBER STATES CONTRIBUTING:



TOWARDS FULL OPERATIONALISATION

In the next six months, Member States should, in the spirit of solidarity, increase their support for the swift roll-out of the Agency, paving the way towards its full operationalisation.

The EU dimension of return policy has been reinforced, but more synergy with national systems would increase the effectiveness of the return policy. With a strong mandate to support Member States, the Agency's return capacity should become fully functional by March 2018. Member States should constantly monitor and share up-to-date data with the EU and increase the number of returned migrants in operations organised in cooperation with the Agency by 50% by June 2018.

Strengthening our borders is a joint responsibility. The European Border and Coast Guard Agency has been thoroughly assessing vulnerabilities at the EU's external borders over the past months. Member States now need to ensure a timely implementation of the Agency's recommendations to prevent situations that may put at risk the functioning of the Schengen area. All the necessary assets and staff for the rapid reaction pools need to be contributed and ready for deployment by March 2018.