



European
Commission

SECURING EUROPE'S EXTERNAL BORDERS A EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD



«We will defend our borders with the new European Border and Coast Guard, which is now being put in place, just nine months after the Commission proposed it. Frontex already has over 600 agents on the ground at the borders with Turkey in Greece and over 100 in Bulgaria. Now, the EU institutions and the Member States should work very closely together to quickly help set up the new Agency. I want to see at least 200 extra border guards and 50 extra vehicles deployed at the Bulgarian external borders as of October.»

European Commission **President Jean-Claude Juncker**, [State of the Union Address](#), 14 September 2016

The Schengen area without internal borders is only sustainable if the external borders are effectively secured and protected. The European Commission in December proposed to establish a European Border and Coast Guard – designed to meet the new challenges and political realities faced by the EU, both as regards migration and internal security. The European Border and Coast Guard was agreed by the European Parliament and Council in a record time of just 9 months and will become operational as of 6 October 2016.

ROADMAP TO A FULLY OPERATIONAL EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD:

6 OCTOBER 2016:
new Agency is legally operational

6 DECEMBER 2016:
rapid reaction pool and the rapid reaction equipment pool become operational

6 JANUARY 2017:
return pools become operational

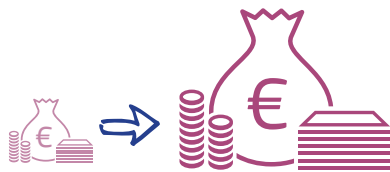
NOVEMBER 2016:
pilot vulnerability assessments

BY DECEMBER 2016:
50 new recruitments in the Agency

JANUARY-MARCH 2017
first vulnerability assessments concluded

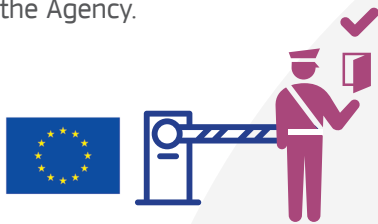
A NEW MANDATE

The limitations of the current EU border agency, Frontex, have hindered its ability to effectively address and remedy the situation created by the refugee crisis: it is not able to purchase its own resources, it does not have its own operational staff and relies on Member State contributions and it is unable to carry out its own return or border management operations without the prior request of a Member State. The new Agency will be strengthened and reinforced to address all these issues.



UNION STANDARDS FOR BORDER MANAGEMENT

The new Agency will ensure Union standards for border management are implemented at all external borders. The external borders will be constantly monitored with periodic risk analyses and mandatory **vulnerability assessments** to identify and address weak spots. **Liaison officers** will be seconded to Member States where the borders are at risk and will be able to relay information back to the Agency.



A RESERVE OF EUROPEAN BORDER GUARDS AND TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT

The Agency's permanent staff will be more than doubled and for the first time, the Agency will be able to purchase its own equipment and deploy them in border operations at a moment's notice. A **rapid reserve pool of at least 1,500 border guards** and a **technical equipment pool** will be put at the disposal of the Agency – meaning there will no longer be shortages of staff or equipment for Agency operations.



PREVENTION OF CROSS-BORDER CRIME



Prevention of cross-border crime will be a priority for the agency. It will be able to process personal data of persons suspected of involvement in criminal activities, such as migrant smuggling, terrorism or trafficking in human beings, as well as personal data of irregular migrants collected by officers deployed by the agency. It will be also able to collect information such as license plate numbers, vehicle identification numbers, telephone numbers or ship identification numbers necessary for analysis of migrant routes and methods used in different types of cross border crime. It will share this information with the authorities of the EU Member States and Europol, enabling them to launch relevant investigations where necessary.


CURRENT FRONTEX DEPLOYMENTS:



 **699 officers in Greece**

 **177 officers in Bulgaria**

 **514 officers in Italy**

 **152 officers in the Western Balkans**

A STRONGER ROLE IN RETURNS



The agency will play a role in **voluntary departures** and will also have enhanced technical and operational tasks in the organisation of **return operations** from the territory of the EU, upon a request from Member States as well as on its own initiative.

WORKING WITH AND IN THIRD COUNTRIES

The Agency will have a new mandate to send liaison officers and launch **joint operations** with neighbouring third countries.

