



Frontex cooperation with Member States and with the SAR community

SAR Contact Group

- 18th May 2026 -



- *Frontex involvement in SAR*
 - ✓ *FSA Operational results engaged in SAR activities*
 - ✓ *SAR exercises within Frontex Contingents*
- *Working Boarding Group in boarding vessel - SAR component*
- *Interagency technical SAR working Group*
- *Mixed crew project*



- Article 3: European Integrated Border Management (*ref. to 656/2014*)
- Article 10: Tasks of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency
- Article 69: EU Cooperation on Coast Guard Functions

While SAR coordination relies on the competent authorities of the MS, FRONTEX's role in SAR is limited to providing technical and operational support within its own operational activity

FRONTEX Fleet deployed in the Mediterranean sea/Cabo Verde

 FSA OSPREY 3 - EFS SP
Airport: ALICANTE (ES)

FSA OSPREY 4 - JO SP
Airport: MALAGA (ES)

FSA OSPREY 1 – JO SP
Airport: MALAGA (ES) - TBD

 FSA FALCON 1 - EFS UAV IT
Airport: LAMPEDUSA (IT)

FSA EAGLE 1– EFS IT
Airport: LAMPEDUSA (IT)

FSA HERON 1 - EFS UAV MLT
Airport: LUQA (MALTA)

FSA EAGLE 3 – EFS MALTA
Airport: LUQA (MALTA)

 FSA EAGLE 8 – EFS MAS CV
Airport: PRAIA (CV)

 FSA EAGLE 6 - JO IT
Airport: CATANIA (IT)

FSA EAGLE 7 - JO IT
Airport: LAMEZIA TERME (IT)

FSA OSPREY 2 - JO IT/EFS
Airport: CAGLIARI (IT)

 LUX – JO IT
Airport: LAMPEDUSA (IT)

 FSA HERON 2 - EFS UAV GR
Airport: TYMPAKI (GR)

FSA SPARROW 1 – EFS GR
Airport: CHANIA (GR)

FSA EAGLE 4 – JO GR
Airport: CHANIA (GR)



FSA – INVOLVEMENT IN SAR WITHIN THE JO in 2025/2026

Number of flight hours performed: 2025 - 503:54 / 2026 - 165:12

Number of missions performed: 2025 – 101 / 2026 – 35

Number of sightings: 2025 – 69 / 2026 – 26

Number of people involved: 2025 – 2365 / 2026 – 913

Number of mayday relay launched: 2025 – 6 / 2026 – 5

FSA – INVOLVEMENT IN SAR OUTSIDE THE JO in 2025/2026

Number of flight hours performed: 2025 - 3656:53 / 2026 - 895:56

Number of missions performed: 2025 – 488 / 2026 – 127

Number of sightings: 2025 – 782 / 2026 – 169

Number of people involved: 2025 – 36360 / 2026 – 6552

Number of mayday relay launched: 2025 – 216 / 2026 – 55

Life raft air drop 2025/2026: 3 SAR events

FSA – INVOLVEMENT IN SAR - Focus on Cabo Verde 2026

Number of flight hours performed: 245

Number of missions performed: 44 missions in total (2 SAR-related)

Number of sightings: 2

Number of people involved: 14

Number of mayday relay launched: 1



MME organised in 2025

- *BRACE Poland (Baltic Readiness and Coastguard Exercise - 26 of June – Gdansk*
- *BRACE Estonia - 27/28 of August – Tallin*
- *CALLATIS – 21/22 of August – Mangalia/Constanta*

MME planned for 2026

- **TOMIS 2026** – Constanta, **AUG 2026** (**MMO WBS 2026**)
- **MME in MMO Baltic Sea** (**SEP 2026 – TBC**)



SAR tactical drills done JO in 2025

- JO Greece – Lesvos , OCT 2025
- JO Italy – Lampedusa, NOV 2025

SAR tactical drills done JO in 2026

- JO Spain – Almeria, JAN 2026



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Working Boarding Group in boarding vessel - SAR component

12-14 November 2025 in Reykjavik (Iceland)

20 maritime experts CYP, EST, FIN, GER, ISL, LVT, LTH, ITA, NDL, NOR, POR, ROU, SWE.

SAR procedure for boarding included in the handbook

Flashcard for SAR boarding and evidence gathering

Exercise scenario focused on :

- *boarding uncooperative vessel*
- *Medevac with Helo with trail-line techniques*
- *Use of drones for pre-boarding assessment*
- *Rummage exercise module on board of vessel*





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Interagency SAR technical working Group



Proposal advanced by Frontex within the last **AECGE** - Gdansk 2025

Objective to analyse the results of current **Interagency** joint activities, evaluating different options for further developing a **more structured framework for cooperation** between the various EU coast guard authorities and agencies.

Promote **mutual dialogue** and the implementation of activities falling within the **five areas** of cooperation included in the common article of the agencies.

Results to be presented and discussed in the next steering Committee in **June 2026**



MMO WBS 2025 (Mangalia) 09 July – 01 October

Integration of SCO Cat 1 CG profile performing CM tasks on board national asset under National commanding Officer

Continuous practical technical exercises on SAR to increase performance and standardization

Use of dedicated SAR light equipment

Development of SOP and risks matrix for operations



Multipurpose Maritime Exercise CALLATIS 2025





Thank you