

Mr Matthias Oel

Director

DIRECTORATE GENERAL MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS

Directorate B: Directorate for Borders, Interoperability and Innovation

Our ref: ORD/ODSO/10736/2020

Please quote when replying.

Your reference: Ares(2020)7014191

Warsaw, 7 December 2020

Subject: Written question: E-005792/2020 - Resources for the second Frontex mission in Montenegro

Dear Mr Oel,

Please find below our reply to the Written Question [E-005792/2020], submitted by MEP Özlem Demirel (GUE/NGL) to the Commission, referring to the Frontex JO Montenegro - Maritime Operational Activities.

Question (1):

What surveillance personnel, equipment and services (such as Frontex FASS overflights, Frontex or EMSA drones, or EFCA or Copernicus satellite observation) are Frontex, EMSA and EFCA proposing to provide for the second Frontex operation in Montenegro?

Answer:

The JO Montenegro 2020 – Maritime Operational Activities takes place from 14 October 2020 till 27 January 2021. In this period, Frontex Surveillance Aircraft is providing aerial surveillance in the operational area. At the same time, one Italian helicopter, operating from Italy, is performing aerial surveillance for Montenegro as well.

Question (2):

Which Member States are taking part in the operation, and with what personnel and equipment?

Answer:

The Member States participating in the JO: France, Croatia, Romania, Italy and the host country Montenegro. Deployments: 1 Frontex Surveillance Aircraft, 1 Italian helicopter (4 crew members), 1 Montenegrin officer in the Frontex Operational Coordination Centre (FOCC in Frontex HQ), 1 Italian National Official in FOCC liaising with the helicopter crew, 1 French and 1 Croatian Frontex Support Officer, 1 Romanian Cross Border Crime Detection Officer, 1 Romanian European Coast Guard Functions Officer (in total 9 officers deployed from the EU MS and 1 from host country).

Question (3):

At what locations in Montenegro is the operation taking place, and where are the Slovenian [Frontex understood this meant to be Montenegrin] border guard force's headquarters and liaison offices located?

Answer:

The border surveillance activities performed by aerial assets are carried out over the Adriatic Sea, focusing on the territorial waters of Montenegro up to the limits of the Exclusive Economic Zone of Montenegro, with a specific focus on the maritime border with Croatia. In order to implement the Activity in Montenegro, Focal Point has been activated in the premises of the National Coordination Centre (NCC) in Podgorica, which hosts the deployed members of the teams. Upon request of Montenegrin Authorities and approval from Frontex, the members of the teams may perform activities in line with the operational aim, in other locations, such as the Regional Border Police Unit/ Border Crossing Point Bar.

Should you need any further clarifications, I remain at your disposal.

Yours sincerely,



Fabrice Leggeri
Executive Director