

European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders
of the Member States of the European Union



Decided, Warsaw, / /2011

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Deputy Executive Director

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OPERATIONAL PLAN

Joint Operation
EPN Hermes Extention 2011

Approved, Warsaw, / /2011



Commented [MP1]:

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PREAMBLE

The present version of the Operational Plan may be revised at any time in accordance with the new operational developments.

Legal Framework of Frontex

Frontex was established by Council Regulation (EC) No 2007/2004 of 26 October 2004 (Frontex Regulation)¹. It operates on the basis of Articles 74 and 77 (1) (b) and (c) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union². These Treaty provisions aim at establishing *inter alia* an area in which the free movement of persons is ensured by abolishing border control at internal borders among the EU Member States (MS). The abolishment of internal border control requires high and uniform levels of control at the external borders of the EU. Frontex was thus established to improve and facilitate that task. The legal basis, objectives, tasks and responsibilities of Frontex are formulated in the Frontex Regulation. In its activities Frontex is subject to the law of the European Union.

Fundamental Rights in Frontex operational activities

Border control must be carried out in a way that fully respects human dignity. All people involved in Frontex operational activities³ maintain the highest standards of ethical conduct, professionalism and respect for fundamental rights. They are expected to meet obligations imposed upon them by the provisions stated in the Operational Plan and shall comply with the rules of their mandates. While taking part in Frontex operational activities personnel shall respect the European law, the national law of the Member State and the Code of Conduct. They shall maintain the highest standards of integrity and conduct. They are to act responsibly and proportionately to current objectives. While carrying out border checks, personnel must not discriminate persons on grounds of sex, race or ethnic origin, religion, belief, age or sexual orientation. Personnel are expected to treat every person with courtesy, respect and due consideration for the nature of any legitimate activity in which they are engaged.

Security

Without prejudice to the public right of access to documents as laid down in Regulation (EC) 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001, regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents, all versions of this document shall be made available to the authorities referred in each Member State or Schengen associated Country (SAC) as "Law Enforcement". This document shall be made available to interested parties on a need-to-know basis, in accordance with national rules for the dissemination of levels of information. This will be done on a case-by-case basis.

Comment Annexes A, C, E, F1, F3, F4, Q, S and U contain detailed information on the operational areas and operational and tactical features and its dissemination would harm the course of future operations. In light of the above the Annexes are not disclosed pursuant to the exception as is not disclosed pursuant to the exception laid down in the first indent of Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation No 1049/2001 relating to the protection of the public interest as regards public security.

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 2007/2004 of 26 October 2004, published in OJ L 349, 25.11.2004, as last amended.

² The equivalent provisions of the Treaty establishing the European Community (EC Treaty) were Articles 62(2)(a) and 66.

³ Namely, Frontex staff, officers of border guard services, officers of Member States or of a Schengen Associated Country and other staff deployed by a Member State or of a Schengen Associated Country participating in Frontex operational activity.

1. MISSION

The mission of the joint operation EPN Hermes Extension 2011, which is under the umbrella of the EPN Hermes 2011, is to focus on the common effort to carry out border surveillance to ensure that persons attempting to cross the external maritime borders undergo the border control as required by the Schengen Borders Code (SBC).

General Objectives

- To increase situational awareness, response, interoperability and performance to tackle identified threats and risks affecting the EU external borders, thus improving the concept of Integrated Border Management;
- To further develop permanent, regional border security concepts, facilitating synchronized and utilized of available resources based on the risk analyses against irregular migration and other border related crime;
- To facilitate effective cooperation with relevant third countries in Frontex coordinated operational activities at the EU external borders.
- To enhance patrolling activities in the respective EPN areas.

Specific Objectives

- Border surveillance – detecting all targets enabling interception of persons to prevent unauthorized border crossings detecting other cross-border criminality and take measures against facilitating or organizer of illegal border crossing as well as to report on other illegal activities ;
- Early detection - Facilitating the early detection and tracking of the contacts of interest in order to report their position to the authorities of the third countries where these have departed seeking for their prompt cooperation and to allow them to take the appropriate measure and actions.
- Information gathering – collecting of the operational information from all actors involved [REDACTED], thus improving the risk assessments that underpin the operational activities;
- Identification and return of third country nationals – supporting the national authorities in screening activities, thus improving national repatriation efforts;
- Prevention and combating the cross-border crime – supporting the national authorities in disclosing cases of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings including identification of victims;
- Best practices - establishment and exchange the best practices to foster practical cooperation between the authorities involved in tackling illegal migration and other cross-border crime.

Commented [MP2]: The marked parts contain detailed information regarding the operational and tactical features of the operation. In light of the above the text is not disclosed pursuant to the exception laid down in the first indent of Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation No 1049/2001 relating to the protection of the public interest as regards public security

2. SITUATION

General information / Risk Assessment

Background

[REDACTED]

In early February, following the political crisis in Tunisia, migratory flows from Tunisia to Lampedusa suddenly increased, reaching particularly high levels in the period 11-13 February, with the detection of 36 boats with 2 750 illegal immigrants on board.

From 1 January until 21 February 2011, 5 160 illegal migrants arrived on Lampedusa Island. This figure is staggeringly high in comparison to the 7 200 arrivals during the whole of 2008, the peak year for migrant arrivals in this area.

Start of JO Hermes in February 2011 until the fall of Tripoli in August 2011

From the beginning of the JO Hermes on 20 Feb 2011 until the fall of Tripoli in August, the number of illegal migrants who reached Italy continued to increase.

By the end of August, more than 47 000 illegal migrants had arrived in Italy, mainly on the island of Lampedusa. Nearly 20 000 illegal migrants departed from Tunisia while around 27 000 migrants left from Libya.

The Libyan Army and the police often worked hand in hand to systematically search for and arrest sub-Saharan migrants. Once they were arrested they were gathered into camps to wait for departure. [REDACTED] The military complex at the ports of Medina, Tripoli, Janzour and Sidi Bilal could be clearly identified as the main departure areas.

At the same time, arrivals from Tunisia to Italy increased significantly due to several reasons. First of all, the situation in Tunisia had been described as chaotic in various parts of the country. The unemployment rate hit new highs. As a result, would-be migrants bought small rubber boats to reach Italy by themselves or chartered fishing boats with the help of facilitation networks established particularly in the city of Sfax. After the month of September with a total of 1 597 Tunisian migrants reached Italy, figures dropped to just 49 illegal migrants in October.

Migratory flows JO Hermes since the fall of the Gaddafi regime

Commented [MP3]: The marked parts contain detailed information on the analytical findings, risk assessment and recommendations and its disclosure would harm the course of future operations. In light of the above the text is not disclosed pursuant to the exception laid down in the first indent of Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation No 1049/2001 relating to the protection of the public interest as regards public security

After the rebels captured Tripoli and forced the Gaddafi loyalists to retreat from the ports and harbours, the organised crossings of migrants to Italy came to an end. The last migration incident from Libya to Lampedusa was reported on 17 August.

At the beginning of September, the migration flows from Tunisia to Lampedusa and the Pelagic Islands, which had decreased significantly after the bilateral repatriation agreement signed by Italy and Tunisia on 5 April 2011, started to increase again.

[REDACTED]

In an effort to avoid being repatriated to Tunisia, Tunisian migrants in the reception centre in Lampedusa caused severe riots and set the reception centre on fire, destroying a significant part of the premises. This resulted in Italy declaring officially Lampedusa as an unsafe port with the consequence that newly arriving illegal migrants were transferred mainly to Sicily.

After this development, facilitation networks began targeting Sicily but also Pantelleria and Linosa (the last incident reported in Lampedusa took place on 22 September).

[REDACTED]

Modus Operandi

With regard to the *modus operandi* of Tunisian migrants, two main patterns have been inferred: they have either been facilitated by criminal networks, or organised the illegal crossing by themselves, without the active involvement of facilitators.

[REDACTED]

It must be stressed that recently, a few incidents were reported in Italy, in the operational areas of the JO Hermes Extension and Aeneas, from Libya and Egypt. This could be an indication of the possible reactivation of the previously involved facilitation networks or the creation of new facilitation networks in Libya. In Egypt, with a view to the forthcoming elections, the situation is unstable and several riots occurred during civil disorder.

Additionally a few migration incidents have been reported in Sardinia from Algeria after the closure of the operational in this area.

Recommendations

[REDACTED]

Commented [MP4]: The marked parts contain detailed information on the analytical findings, risk assessment and recommendations and its disclosure would harm the course of future operations. In light of the above the text is not disclosed pursuant to the exception laid down in the first indent of Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation No 1049/2001 relating to the protection of the public interest as regards public security

[REDACTED]

Due to the incidents reported in Sicily since September, the extension of the operational area to the northwest and east is recommended, to ensure the detection of vessels bound for west Sicily from north Tunisia, as well as of vessels bound for the south-southeast Sicily from Libya or Egypt;

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The host MS (Italy) should ensure the deployment of an Intelligence Officer (IO).

The host MS (Italy) should nominate leading experts from Polizia Di Stato (PdS) appointed to each reception centre in order to:

[REDACTED]

Collect information on each incident occurring in the operational areas of the JO from the national authorities involved (number and nationalities of migrants, details of vessel used, landing area, departure area, identification of facilitators)

[REDACTED]

Operational area

The operational area will be established from the coasts of Lampedusa Island (Italy)

[REDACTED]

Comment [REDACTED] The blanked parts contains detailed information on the operational areas. The disclosure of the details of the operational area would harm the course of future operations taking place at the same defined area. In light of the above the text is not disclosed pursuant to the exception laid down in the first indent of Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation No 1049/2001 relating to the protection of the public interest as regards public security.

Initial participation

Host MS	Italy	Polizia di Stato Marina Militare Guardia di Finanza Guardia Costiera Carabinieri
Participating MS	Malta	Armed Forces and Police
	France	National Police and Customs
	Spain	National Police Guardia Civil
	Portugal	SEF
	Belgium	Federal Police
	Sweden	National Police
	Germany	Federal Police
	Switzerland	National Police
	The Netherland	Coast Guard and Royal Marechaussee
	Austria	National Police
	Hungary	National Police
	Romania	Border Police and Romanian Immigration Office

Initial Duration

Commencement	20 February 2011	09:00 (local time)
Termination	31 st of March 2012	24:00 (local time)

The initial participation, detailed breakdown of the participants and duration of the joint operation which will depend on risk analysis, will be provided in **Annex B**. Any amendments of the duration modalities will be reflected in revised versions of **Annex B** without the amending the Operational Plan.

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT OPERATION

3.1 Concept of operation

The responsibility for the control of the external borders remains with the MS. Frontex facilitates and renders more effective application of existing and future Community measures related to the management of external borders, by ensuring the coordination of MS actions in the implementation of those measures, thereby contributing to an efficient, high and uniform level of control on persons and surveillance of the external borders of the MS.

All the measures shall be planned and executed based on Community law, the relevant national legislation and existing provisions of international law, both customary and conventional and in close cooperation with the involved authorities of the MS, in particular the host MS.

Actions are coordinated by the ICC without prejudice of the privileges of the national operation chain of command and control specific to each participating MS. The command and control of technical means and experts participating in the operation remain under the authority of the national commands.

The joint maritime operation **Hermes Extension 2011** will also focus on the second line activities (intelligence) gathering, identification of nationalities, prevention and early detection of criminal activities at EU external borders.

The border surveillance will be ensured by maritime assets patrolling predefined area. Deploying aerial assets will enhance the border surveillance by ensuring the early detections of irregular immigrants.

The additional deployments will be carried out following the risk assessment recommendations.

All suspicious contacts of interest detected in the international waters shall be reported for the appropriate actions to the relevant authorities via officially established communication channels.

Comment The blanked text contains sensitive detailed information regarding the operational and tactical features of the operation and its disclosure would harm the course of future operations. In light of the above the text is not disclosed pursuant to the exception laid down in the first indent of Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation No 1049/2001 relating to the protection of the public interest as regards public security.

Actions

The actions during the operational phase of JO EPN **Hermes Extension 2011** include deployment of additional technical means, guest officers, cultural mediators at sea border in order to:

- Perform joint patrols at sea border.
- Provide additional support to Italian Authorities in management of border control by providing additional technical resources and optimization of tactical use.
- Encourage the guest officers and local staff to share experiences and exchange expertise as well as to constantly update their knowledge on the illegal migration trends in order to adopt countermeasures to tackle the phenomena.
- Carry out high standard interview procedures in order to collect reliable and valuable information
- Collect and assess information in order to improve the detection of human smuggling facilitation by individuals and/or criminal networks and assist wherever possible identification and detention of facilitators.
- Provide with clear and updated situational picture concerning the operational areas, modus operandi, main trends and possible rapid changes in this respect

- Carry out daily and ad-hoc exchange of information with ICC/FSC/Project Team as the main actors responsible for the overall cooperation in the framework of the JO.
- Promote the cooperation among EU MS/SAC and Tunisia as well as the other countries of the North African area

The additional deployments of experts and means will be spread during the period of implementation following the risk assessment recommendations.

Border surveillance

Border surveillance shall be carried out by using the MS offered means – to detect all border crossing incidents and when it is needed to intercept persons to prevent unauthorized border crossing.

- **Use of Maritime assets**

The task of maritime units is to detect, to identify all contacts of interests in the operational area by using all available equipment for surveillance enabling the detection and when needed the interception.

The maritime units shall perform their tasks under the guidance of the ICC, following the planning and schedule confirmed at daily meeting of Joint Coordination Board chaired by the ICC Coordinator.

In addition, Regular patrolling activity of vessels will continue in other operational areas of EPN general named E1, E2, E3, E4, covering their area of responsibility. Patrolling schedule must be flexible and carried out according with assets capabilities and with the information gathered by the debriefing teams/IO, the detail analysis from ASO, sea state and weather conditions.

The CPVs activities will be carried in the operational area in order to facilitate the early detection and tracking of the contacts of interests and, at the same time, to report their position to the responsible third countries authorities in order to react properly.

These actions are coordinated by the ICC, without prejudice of the privileges of the national operational chain of command and control specific to each participating Member State.

It is highly important to ensure the proper communication among the participating means, National Officials and ICC.

All the participating patrol vessels should preferably be equipped, during the JO, with a positioning system, those which are not equipped with mentioned system, will communicate their position to ICC, at least every 2 hours. A picture with the path followed by the patrol vessels will show every day at JBC meeting regarding the patrolling activities carried out the previous 24 hours. FC will have access to the Guardia di Finanza positioning system.

Main local naval base for the participants will be in the port of Lampedusa.

- **Use of Aerial assets**

The aerial means' main tasks should be the surveillance enabling the detections of suspicious contacts of interests and as far as possible classification and identification of them.

[REDACTED] and to supporting the maritime means.

The long range air patrolling activities (fix wing aircrafts) will be carried out in the defined area in order to facilitate the early detection and tracking of the contacts of interests and, at the same time, to report their position to the responsible third countries authorities for adopting the properly actions via ICC.

The patrolling activities carried out far away from the coast would also permit the possible identification of mother ships.

The ICC will properly plan the aerial unit's patrols ensuring that it will be supported by maritime means.

It is highly important to ensure the proper communication among the participating means, National Officials and ICC.

All the participating air units will try to be equipped, during the JO, with a positioning system. Those which are not equipped with mentioned system, will communicate their position to ICC, at least every 1 hour. If for any reason the mission planned, last less the 2 hours, the position will be communicated to ICC every 40 minutes. A picture with the path followed by the air units will show every day at JBC meeting regarding the patrolling activities carried out the previous 24 hours. I/C will have access to the Guardia di Finanza positioning system.

Air bases for aerial units will be Lampedusa, Pantelleria, Sigonella, Catania and La Valletta airport.

- **Interception of persons at sea**

Search and Rescue (SAR) operations in the operational area are to be conducted under the coordination of the MRCC according to internationally approved SAR procedures.

- **Intelligence gathering**

Intelligence will be gathered [REDACTED] in order to collect information for better operational awareness and facilitating operational decision-making and that may be used for supporting national measures of the host MS including criminal investigation.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- **Identification of the 3rd country nationals**

The identification of the 3rd country nationals is supported by the **screening experts** who interview and establish an assumption of the nationality of an undocumented person having crossed or having attempted to cross an external border illegally in view of the return of the third-country nationals to his country of origin or to a country which will admit them.

3.2 Tasks and roles of participants

The contacts and the detailed tasks and roles of participants are defined in Annex D.

3.3 Coordination Structure

Partnership

- Frontex is the Community coordinator, initiating, promoting and facilitating the EU MS/SACs' synchronized efforts to control the external borders.
- Italy, Host Member State, is the operational multiplier, initiator, developer and tasks' executor.
- The Italian Authorities are responsible for all border-related operational activities in the defined operational areas and the predefined detention centres, including border surveillance, processes of identification, acquisition of travel documents and returns regarding illegal migrants. On behalf of Italy, the Italian Polizia di Stato, Marina Militare, Carabinieri, Guardia Costiera, and Guardia di Finanza, are the working partners of Frontex for the activities to be carried out within the joint operation. Polizia di Stato will be responsible to provide IO,

totally devoted or permanent, with all the needed information about the incidents interviews as well as the screening activities.

- The participating EU MS will support the operation's objectives and activities by deploying their assets and experts to the defined locations.

Frontex Project Team (PT)

Project Team is composed of a Project Manager (PM) and assisted by Project Team Members is designated for the joint operation.

Frontex Coordinator (FC)

A FC is to be permanently deployed in Italy, in the ICC in operative Air-Naval Command in Pratica di Mare Airport where to monitor the operation, to foster cooperation and coordination among the host and participating MS. FOO operational component staff members can be appointed as FC and supported by Frontex Support Officers for horizontal and geographical activities.

Frontex Support Officer (FSO)

The FSO can be assisted by a FSO for monitoring and coordinating the operation at the local level as well as for horizontal activities, especially related to the reporting system and documentation expertise.

Frontex Analyst Support Officer (ASO)

Frontex shall appoint an ASO to the joint operation to assess operational information and to produce regular analytical assessments. For this purpose the ASO can be periodically deployed to the operational area.

Frontex Situation Centre (FSC)

All detailed information related to the role, tasks, functioning of FSC and their products (FOSS, JORA) is provided in ANNEX N

The Frontex Situation Centre provides a constantly updated picture of the illegal migration situation at the external borders of the EU as near to real-time as possible.

The Frontex Situation Centre carries out situation monitoring, maintains situational awareness, and provides a first response in case of crisis or emergency situations that may occur during the operation.

Senior Duty Officer (SDO) Service in FSC

As the central point of contact the FSC provides a 12/7 SDO Service between 08.00 and 20.00 CET.

Additionally, the FSC provides a 24/7 on call availability for emergency and crisis situations as well as for serious incidents reporting according to the Serious Incident Catalogue.

FSC Senior Duty Officer – Contact Information	
██████████	████████████████████
██████████	████████████████████
██████████	████████████████████

Frontex One Stop Shop (FOSS)

FOSS is a web-based and secure portal (<https://foss.frontex.europa.eu>) for sharing the relevant information and it is accessible 24/7. FOSS serves as a documents repository for the up-to-date and operational-related information.

During the JO it will be the main platform used for sharing operational-related information between all parties involved.

The information about ongoing JO (specified documents) will be accessible according to defined standards and amongst users designated respectively for each joint operation. The standards and use of FOSS is described in the ANNEX O of the Operational Plan.

In order to get the access to FOSS, the User Access Request Form (for all users excepting guest officers, ANNEX P) and Accreditation Document (for guest officers, ANNEX R) have to be filled in and sent to Frontex.

Joint Operations Reporting Application (JORA)

Joint Operations Reporting Application (JORA) is an IT software system that provides Frontex and its internal and external stakeholders' capabilities of sending, managing and appraising the data (incidents) related to operational activities coordinated by Frontex.

FSC JORA team is responsible for JORA product management. The Information Flow Scheme within JORA as well as product managers, administrators and other nominated JORA actors are in Annex Q.

JORA product management is collecting feedback from the end users in a standard format available in Annex S. The feedbacks are collected, evaluated and analyzed by JORA change advisory board.

Frontex Operational Office (FOO)

The FOO is established in Piraeus (Greece) in the premises of Frontex to coordinate the operational activities in the Central and Eastern Mediterranean Region including Cyprus, Greece, Italy and Malta, at all types of borders including return matters.

FOO Operational Component

Members of the operational management component of FOO might be asked to take the role of FC and other ad hoc task delegated by Frontex HQ.

FOO Intelligence Component

The intelligence component of the FOO will ensure the proper gathering and channeling of information and intelligence from the operational area by liaising with the national authorities at local and central level, supporting and monitoring the activities of the [REDACTED] experts deployed by Frontex and responding to ad hoc intelligence requirements from the ASO, and in close cooperation with the IC.

International Coordination Centre (ICC)

The ICC shall be established in the host MS in cooperation with Frontex. The ICC is located in the Guardia di Finanza premises in operative Air-Naval Command in Pratica di Mare Airport (Italy), having in mind that the ICC will be in Operative Unit of Guardia di Finanza in Lampedusa.

The operation shall be coordinated from the ICC on 24/7 basis. The ICC shall meet the minimum requirement indicated in the annex C providing the capability for the ICC to communicate and coordinate the LCCs, assets and experts deployed.

The ICC staff consists of Guardia di Finanza officers. Italy will ensure the participation of English speakers operators in ICC in order to ensure the communications with the participants, FC and PM.

ICC Coordinator

The ICC Coordinator is an officer of Guardia di Finanza appointed by the host MS Italy. The ICC Coordinator is responsible for the daily management of the ICC and is the chairman of the Joint Coordination Board (JCB).

Intelligence Officer (IO)

The IO is a Polizia di Stato officer and is nominated by the host MS Italy. The IO is deployed in the ICC to act permanently as a daily connection between the local authorities and the ICC/LCC in gathering and sharing relevant operational / intelligence information. The IO cooperates with the ICC/LCC Coordinators, the ASO and the FC on daily basis.

National Official (NO)

The NO shall be appointed by the MS deploying their aerial and/or maritime means to the operation. The NO shall be deployed to the ICC to coordinate the actions of their respective national assets with the ICC Coordinator according to their national legislation.

Joint Coordinating Board (JCB)

The JCB runs the operation and is established within the ICC. The JCB is comprised of at least the ICC Coordinator, the IO, the NO and the FC. The JCB is chaired by the ICC Coordinator. The PT members in Frontex may take part in the JCB meetings via the videoconference.

Local Coordination Centre (LCC)

The local Operational Unit of Guardia di Finanza in Lampedusa is appointed as the LCC. There are no additional personnel deployed. The main task of the LCCs is to coordinate and assist the assets/experts deployed in the areas.

Italy will ensure the participation of English speakers operators in LCC.

Local staff of the host Member State

The experts/ assets deployed will be supported by the local staff of Polizia di Stato, Marina Militare, Guardia di Finanza, Guardia Costiera and Carabinieri during their deployments.

Additional staff of the host Member State

Besides the experts/ assets of the participating MS deployed, additional staff of Polizia di Stato (IO) and Marina Militare, Guardia di Finanza, Guardia Costiera and Carabinieri will be deployed in the determined ICC and LCC. This is important to ensure the efficient communication and information flowing among all participants.

Experts

[REDACTED]

Cultural Mediators/Interpreters

Frontex and the Host Member State consider the need to deploy of Cultural Mediators.

The Cultural Mediators will participate in debriefings teams assisting the local and guest officers with linguistic support as well as increasing the quality of information gathered.

The Cultural Mediators should be fluent in English and Arabic language.

Assets and other technical equipment

Assets and other technical equipment will be deployed by the host and participating MS in the operational areas, such as Coastal Patrol Vessel (CPV) and long range fixed wing aircrafts to foster the border control activities.

Detailed breakdown of the deployment modalities is attached in **Annex B**.

Cooperation with Europol

Frontex and Europol shall cooperate during the joint operation **Hermes 2011 Extended** through exchange of information and intelligence. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Liaison with European Asylum Support Office

Representative of EASO is invited to participate as observer to the operational area and to liaise with Frontex where appropriate aiming to establish working contact and to support EASO's possible activities

Observers from third countries/ Point(s) of contact in third countries

[REDACTED]

Operational briefings and trainings

Due to the urgent nature of the operation, the operational briefing and training for the participants will be provided by the appointed officers by the host MS Italy and the member of Frontex Project Team at the local level prior the commencement of operational activities.

Operational synergies

The approved EPN Program for 2011 is predicted to cover all Frontex coordinated operational activities at the area of external maritime borders in the Mediterranean Sea.

Following Frontex Program of Work 2011, the different Units/Sectors in Frontex seeking to ensure and foster a common unified approach towards the security and safety of Italian borders.

The EPN Hermes EPN Hermes extension, (Mediterranean Sea) and Aeneas (Ionian Sea) will be implemented under the EPN Program 2011.

Common synergies include the following:

- Common partners in the host MS:
 - Polizia di Stato
 - Marina Militare
 - Guardia Costiera
 - Guardia di Finanza
 - Carabinieri
- Common reporting system and coordination of the resources via the ICC/I.CC

Frontex strongly advises to all participants during the implementation of joint activities to act in accordance with reference related to fundamental rights (Preamble) and annex dedicated to the Rules of engagement (Annex G).
All the annexes can be revised in accordance to the uprising operational needs.

4. COMMAND, CONTROL AND COMMUNICATIONS

Communication

Communication flows for all activities in the operational area are standardized [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Comment [REDACTED] The blanked text contains sensitive information regarding the operational and tactical details of the operation as well as the communication and reporting system. Its disclosure would harm the course of future operations. In light of the above the text is not disclosed pursuant to the exception laid down in the first indent of Article 4(1)(a) of Regulation No 1049/2001 relating to the protection of the public interest as regards public security.

Command and control

Commanding Officers are the Commander of aerial, maritime assets according to their national legislation.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Reporting

The operational reporting will be based on automatic and electronic solutions with the following principles observed:

- Single data entry,
- Database approach,
- Automatic generation of necessary reports.

Reporting

The daily **Reporting Package** shall be prepared by the ICC Staff and shall consist of the following reports:

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]		

[REDACTED]

The reports of Experts and Intelligence Officer:

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]		

Incidents reporting:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Serious Incident Reports

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]		

Document alert and Reference Manual

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Frontex reports are the following:

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

5. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

Finance

Frontex will, in accordance with the decision of the Frontex Executive Director, co-finance the JO. Frontex will reimburse the costs to a relevant EU MS/ SAC's authority in accordance with signed "Specific Financing Decision" (SFD) based on the deployment of their means and experts.

The hosting MS, Italy, is also eligible for co-financing for the eligible costs for additional activities and staff deployed.

Logistics

It is highly recommended to deliver heavy equipment on the day after the arrival and send it back the day before the end of deployment. Light equipment could be delivered in advance after consultation with local authorities.

Transportation

The use of rental car is to be approved in advance by the Project Team and expenses will be included in the relevant financial documents. In this case participants should arrange in advance by themselves, all practical/logistic issues.

When rental cars are not available, transportation will be provided by hosting Member State's authorities on daily basis as a general rule.

Upon arrival and departure, connection from/to the airports to/from the hotels will be arranged by the participants themselves.

Lodging

Information about lodging will be provided in the briefing.

The participating Member States deploying **air assets** shall inform:

- Aviation Authorities
- The ICC via email [REDACTED]
- Project Team via email [REDACTED]

The information shall contain the following:

1. A/C or HEL
2. Type of A/C or HEL
3. Registration number
4. Call-sign

5. A/C or HEL equipment (equipment for day/ night)
 6. Number of the crew
 7. Period of operational deployment
 8. Obligation of filing flight plan
 9. To be informed of RAC 1-1-4 par 2.2 (AIP Italy) chapter for VFR flights
 10. Before entering within controlled airspace (TMA, CTR, and ATZ) prior coordination is required with the appropriate unit
 11. When flying within controlled airspace follow the instructions by the responsible AT Controller
- The participating Member States deploying **maritime assets** shall inform:
- The ICC via email : [REDACTED]
 - Project Team via email : [REDACTED]

The information shall contain the following:

1. Type of equipment
2. Type of registration (military/civil)
3. Registration number
4. Communication equipment (equipment for day/ night)
5. Number of the crew
6. Period of operational deployment

Diplomatic clearances for the aerial/ naval and land assets shall be arranged by the participating Member States.

The participating Member States deploying **experts** shall complete the Accreditation Document for Guest Officer (Information in advance) and send to:

- The ICC via email : [REDACTED]
- The LCC operational area where they will be deployed:
Project Team via email [REDACTED]

