

Ms Michaela Svobodova

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Our ref: CGO/LPU/23958a/2018

Please quote when replying.

Warsaw, 19 January 2018

Request for access to Frontex documents

Dear Ms Svobodova,

With reference to your application, received on 29 November 2017, requesting

- any information about finance side of the relations between Frontex and EUNAVFOR Med, I kindly ask to provide also these documents if possible.
- Anything about financing of the EU RTF, JO Triton or the liaison officers

I regret to inform you that access to the requested documents has to be refused pursuant to Article 4(1)(a) first indent of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents. This refusal is justified by the fact that the disclosure of information in regard to the ongoing operation EUNAVFOR MED, Joint Operation Triton 2017 and the the EU Regional Task Force would hamper the effectiveness of Frontex operations and if this information became public the efforts carried out by the European Union and Member States to curtail criminal activities - and thus public security - would be undermined. Furthermore, there exists a risk that disclosing all the variables and the information therein would benefit the smuggling networks who would change their modus operandi accordingly, thus putting the life of migrants in danger. This also applies to the predecessors of respective operations as the financial information of these has been used as the basis for the conceptualization of the ongoing operations and is further considered in the drawing up of subsequent operations.

However, we are able to provide you with the following financial information:

Frontex has co-financed five deployments of Liaison Officers provided by MSs (LOs) to EUNAVFORMED HQ in 2017 during the following periods:

- a) 01/03 - 05/05 (20,151.50 EUR)
- b) 05/07 - 04/08 (8,629.60 EUR)
- c) 02/08 - 08/09 (8,629.60 EUR)
- d) 06/09 - 06/10 (9,411.99 EUR)
- e) 29/10 - 07/12 (11,079.25 EUR)

During the deployments, the Agency is covering costs related to daily subsistence allowances, travel related expenses and accommodation costs. In justified cases also (rental) car costs may be eligible.

Frontex is also co-financing the deployment of LOs provided by Italian authorities to the EUNAVFORMED flag ship (one LO in 2017). Additionally, one LO was co-financed to be deployed to a Belgian OPV within EUNAVFORMED from 19 June to 22 July 2017. For 2017, the estimated value of LOs deployed to EUNAVFORMED assets amounts to approximately 43.000 EUR.

Since Italian LOs are part of a more general pool of LOs, an exact amount cannot be established.

Yours sincerely,

signed

Hervé Caniard
Head of Transparency Office

Pursuant to Article 7(2) of Regulation 1049/2001, you may present a confirmatory application. This confirmatory application, in which you may ask for reconsideration of your original request is to be made within 15 working days of receiving our reply. If you make such an application, within 15 working days, you will either be granted access to the document or our intention to refuse access, as explained above, will be confirmed. The confirmatory application can be sent by post or electronically.