

Joint Europol-Frontex Action Plan

The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), represented by its Executive Director, and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), represented by its Executive Director,

Having regard to the Agreement on Operational Cooperation signed on 4 December 2015¹,

Whereas:

- (1) The conclusions of the Europol-Frontex Executive and Senior Management Meeting of 20 February 2017 set out that a Joint Action Plan on the coordination of the operational and strategic measures is needed in order to establish a more structured cooperation, regular consultations and coordination between Europol and Frontex.
- (2) Europol and Frontex must exploit opportunities offered by the agencies' respective new legal frameworks - Regulation (EU) 2016/794 on Europol² and Regulation (EU) 2016/1624 on Frontex.³

Building on the previously agreed Action Plan signed on 6 September 2017 and reflecting

- the outcome of the meeting between the Executive Directors that took place in The Hague on 4 and 5 September 2018 and
- the discussions that took place in the joint meeting of the respective Management Boards in The Hague on 4 October 2018 and

in the spirit of jointly agreed Principles signed on 4 October 2018,

¹ Agreement on Operational Cooperation between the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union ("Frontex") and the European Police Office ("Europol").

² Regulation (EU) 2016/794 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) and replacing and repealing Council Decisions 2009/371/JHA, 2009/934/JHA, 2009/935/JHA, 2009/936/JHA and 2009/968/JHA, *OJ L 135, 24.5.2016, p. 53–114*.

³ Regulation (EU) 2016/1624 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2016 on the European Border and Coast Guard and amending Regulation (EU) 2016/399 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EC) No 863/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulation (EC) No 2007/2004 and Council Decision 2005/267/EC, *OJ L 251, 16.9.2016, p. 1*.

have agreed to carry out the activities contained in the Annex.

This Action Plan shall be reviewed and updated, if mutually agreed, after each Annual Meeting between the two Executive Directors.

Done at Luxembourg, 7th June 2019.

For Europol



Catherine de Bolle

Executive Director

For Frontex



Fabrice Leggeri

Executive Director

Annex: Joint Europol-Frontex Action Plan

Field of cooperation	Leading unit	Objectives	Action to be taken	Timeline
<p>Exchange of information</p>	<p>Europol: G1, O1, O52-TI Frontex: CAB/CGO/ORD/SAM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximal data flow between the agencies; Wide use of UMF when applicable; Sharing of experience, knowledge and good practices; Efficient implementation of relevant legislation, such as ETIAS; Increased information exchange (JORA, FOSS, SIENA, Crisis and Media monitoring etc.). Sharing information in emergency situations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The establishment of a joint group on interoperability (also to cover the implementation of ETIAS, and other relevant systems); Presentation by Europol of its experience, in particular on SIS; Possible establishment of a satellite office of Europol in the ETIAS Central Unit; Support the ETIAS Central Unit in the update and dissemination of Common Risk Indicators (CRIs) relating to FTFs as well as crime indicators if relevant; Feedback on the usefulness of the data provided; Regular exchange of views on travel intelligence; Establish a joint Standard Emergency Procedure that allows sharing of hits/relevant information. 	<p>1st half of 2019 and onwards</p>

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<p>Information Clearing House (ICH)</p>	<p>Europol: EMSC Frontex: RAU</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced information exchange on migrant smuggling, including joint work on intelligence products. Implementation of coordinated measures to combat specific cross-border crime threats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deployment of a dedicated Frontex officer to the Information Clearing House, based on a mutually agreed deployment concept; Discussing the use of Frontex data and assets for ICH products; Development and implementation of a concept of Frontex-Europol Coordinated Tactical Response to Cross-Border Crime Threats including joint analysis reports regarding specific threats and subsequent tactical and operational measures to be taken in cooperation with Member States. 	<p>1st half of 2019 and onwards</p>
<p>Eurosur/Copernicus Fusion Services / Multipurpose Aerial Surveillance</p>	<p>Europol: EMSC, O54 Frontex: SAM/IFC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased use of EFS/MAS and other Eurosur Fusion Services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify a SOC pilot case in which to use Frontex fusion services. Study visit for Europol staff, possible deployment of Europol expert to MAS on <i>ad hoc</i> basis to support the investigations; cooperation with LES in cases of preventing and detection of cross-border crime. 	<p>1st half of 2019 and onwards</p>

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<p>External Relations</p>	<p>Europol: G21, O56 Frontex: IEC/LOU</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperation in activities of Frontex and Europol Liaison Officers networks in line with the respective mandates of the two agencies; Coordination of the agencies' activities in relation with third states and international organisations; Common understanding and procedures of cooperation with EMLOs, ILOs and other MS LOs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going coordination, including through meetings of relevant experts. Establishment of strategic cooperation between Europol LO to Albania and Frontex joint operation JO FOA Western Balkan after their respective deployments. 	<p>1st half of 2019 and onwards</p>
<p>Programming</p>	<p>Europol: G22, G21 Frontex: ICO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligned programming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation of respective draft annual work programmes (in line with current practice between JHA agencies), reviewing the modalities of a possible joint section. 	<p>Q1 2019 onwards (Work Programme 2020) – Frequency: annual</p>

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Exchange of Liaison Officers	Europol: G21 Frontex: LOU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased cooperation through the establishment of respective Liaison Bureaux. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition of the LO profile; Conclusion of an MoU; Administrative arrangements; Recruitment and secondment of the officers. 	2019
Shared Liaison Bureau premises in Brussels	Europol: G21, C58 Frontex: CAB/IEC/CGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared premises for respective Liaison Bureaux in Brussels as a long-term option. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated search for premises. 	Open ended.
Strategic analysis	Europol: O52/EMSC Frontex: SAM/ORD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperation on strategic analysis; provision of the information enriching the overall picture in respective crime areas; Ensure consistency of and exchange best practice on methodological approaches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular and active Europol involvement to Frontex risk analysis networks activities; Regular and active Frontex involvement in Europol strategic analysis activities, including input to and review of strategic analysis products, such as the SOCTA; Frontex participation to the SOCTA Advisory Group; Development of joint analysis products (.) 	1 st half of 2019 and onwards
Terrorism	Europol: ECTC, O52 Frontex: SAM/ORD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancing operational / strategic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working level consultations between ECTC and Frontex (Q1 2019); 	1 st half of 2019 and onwards

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<p>Customs</p>	<p>Europol: G21, O24, O55 Frontex: ORD/IEC/CAB</p>	<p>information exchange; EBCG involvement and contribution to TE-SAT 2019; Common Frontex-Europol revision of CRIs; FTFs risk profiles to share with Frontex.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better coordination of operational cooperation with customs authorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECTC engagement with Frontex on TE-SAT (Q1 2019); • Seek synergies to periodically update the CRIs (Q3-4 2019); • ECTC to elaborate the share depersonalised risk profiles. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular communication between Frontex and Europol contact points responsible for cooperation with customs; • Contribution to the improvement of coordination mechanism of the operational activities; • Use of EU Policy Cycle/EMPACT actions and CCWP 9th (and subsequent ones) Action Plan as appropriate to engage jointly with customs authorities, including the possibility to organise trilateral joint operational activities also as part of JADs. 	<p>1st half of 2019 and onwards</p>

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EMPACT / EU Policy Cycle	Europol: O55 Frontex: ORD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synergy in contributions to and coordination of operational activities under the EU Policy Cycle/EMPACT including JADs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint engagement, where relevant, in OAs under the respective OAPs; • Joint Action Days - reciprocal support; • Consultation before NEC meetings on topics of common interest; • Promotion of EMPACT as a tool to bridge border and coast guard with police and customs community. 	On a regular basis and "ad hoc" whenever needed.
COSI and COSI SG	Europol: G21 Frontex: CAB/IEC with SAM/ORD support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular consultation on issues of common interest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular working-level consultations; • Europol and Frontex to discuss their position or share draft reports in areas of common interest; • Joint presentations at COSI or COSI SG in case of particular joint undertakings. 	On a regular basis and "ad hoc" whenever needed.
24/7	Europol: O1 Frontex: SAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing of Europol experience in 24/7 activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations regarding 24/7 roster and general set up of the Operations Room. 	1 st half of 2019 and onwards
Deployments	Europol: O57, EMSC, C51 Frontex: ORD/SAM/CBD/CGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonisation of the benefits and entitlements for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular meetings between officers responsible for the coordination of the field deployments; 	1 st half of 2019 and onwards

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		<p>deployed personnel;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-deployment briefings provided by Europol to Frontex deployed Team Members tailored to the operational and field related needs, including the part on FTFs; • Frontex contribution to the training provided to Europol experts deployed in the field; • Coordination of training activities, including in the context of Migration Management Support Teams (MMSTs); • Cooperating in the area of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint advise on the daily cooperation for Frontex and Europol experts to be further developed and used; • Europol contribution to the tailored and updated pre-deployment briefings; • Possible elaboration of the common security, safety and health policy; • Sharing products related to the health aspects at the hotspots among the agencies (for example, health and safety guidelines on the certain diseases developed by Frontex); • Common basic training on security procured and delivered for the agencies' personnel (TA, SNE); • Deployment to CSDP missions whether required and regular evaluations of the deployment. 	

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		<p>security at the hotspots, especially via the assigned Security officers of the respective agencies, as well as in the area of health and safety;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of activities in EURTF; • Improved cooperation within CSDP missions. 		
Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)	<p>Europol: G5, Frontex: CAP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing subject related information exchange • Cooperation on sharing OSH best practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development (together with EASO) of joint 'Occupational Health and Safety deployment information' 	<p>Open ended</p>
Training	<p>Europol: O57, O53, C53, G1, O52-TI Frontex: TRU</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better threat detection and intelligence gathering. • Build up capacities for processing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced cooperation in the development and delivery of training, including Europol active involvement in training of Frontex staff. • Develop Joint Training for Migration Management Support 	<p>1st half of 2019 and onwards</p>

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		<p>advance travel information, in particular in MS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperate and create synergies between the JHA agencies • Cooperation with third countries under selected projects. 	<p>Teams between EASO, Frontex and Europol.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation between the Agencies when organising and developing training on advance information and travel intelligence, in particular to support MS authorities. 	
<p>Staff Exchange Programme</p>	<p>Europol: O56, O53 Frontex: IEC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved cooperation through awareness raising and enhanced professional contacts between staff members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining the rules, format and target group of the exchange and planning the first pilot round (first semester), hosting of Frontex and reciprocally the Europol participants in the second semester of 2019. 	<p>1st half of 2019 and onwards</p>
<p>Research and innovation</p>	<p>Europol: G10, O1, O52-TI, C1, O3, G21, EU IRU Frontex: CBD/RIU</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation between the agencies in facilitating use, in particular by Member States, of advance information and travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance Information (and Travel Intelligence): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular involvement of Europol on advance information work and products (e.g. Study on Advance Information at land and sea borders); 	<p>2019 and onwards</p>

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		<p>intelligence, including the identification of common practices for processing travellers' data;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation in the identification of innovative solutions and technologies for border security; • Coordination/cooperation in areas of research and technologies of common interest for border security and investigations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooperation in supporting Western Balkan countries to develop their advance information systems; - Cooperation between the Agencies when organising training on advance information and travel intelligence, in particular to support MS authorities. • Other areas for cooperation/coordination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biometrics/biometric systems and associated vulnerabilities; - Advance solutions for Open Source Intelligence (OSINT); - Big data solutions for artificial intelligence in general; - Technology Foresight; - Participation/engagement of Europol in relevant Innovation Pilot Projects; - Performance Assessment of Document Inspection Systems, in particular where this concerns document fraud; 	

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EU Framework Programme, as related to Border Security. • Participation of Europol in Frontex planned workshops/conferences, industry days and thematic events relevant to the activities above. 	
Regular meetings of Executive Directors	Europol: G10/G21 Frontex: CAB/IEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular exchange of views and strategic coordination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual meetings. 	Next meeting: September 2019
Regular meetings of Senior Management	Europol: G21, ODM Frontex: IEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-divisional coordination, regular exchange of views and operational coordination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings twice a year. 	1st half of 2019 and onwards