AMENDMENTS
1 - 25

Draft opinion
Roberta Metsola
(PE643.088v01-00)

2018 discharge: European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex)
(2019/2083(DEC))
Amendment 1
Saskia Bricmont
on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

1. Stresses the important role of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (‘the Agency’), commonly referred to as Frontex in promoting, coordinating and developing European integrated border management;

Amendment
1. Stresses the important role of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (‘the Agency’), commonly referred to as Frontex, in promoting, coordinating and developing European integrated border management in full respect of fundamental rights;

Or. en

Amendment 2
Tom Vandendriessche

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1

1. Stresses the important role of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (‘the Agency’), commonly referred to as Frontex in promoting, coordinating and developing European integrated border management;

Amendment
1. Stresses the important role of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (‘the Agency’), commonly referred to as Frontex, in promoting, coordinating and developing European integrated border protection;

Or. en

Amendment 3
Nicola Procaccini

Draft opinion
Paragraph 1 a (new)

1 a. Welcomes the activities carried out by the Agency with the aim of managing
the migratory pressure and detecting potential threats at the external borders of the Union, thus contributing to the fight against organised crime and to increasing the level of security and safety; regrets that such activities are not always successful since they are not part of a winning Union strategy on migration;

Or. en

Amendment 4
Morten Petersen

Draft opinion
Paragraph 3

Draft opinion

3. Notes the slight budget increase to EUR 289 million (an increase of 2 %), of which EUR 171 million or 59 % was assigned to financing agreements with cooperating countries for operational activities; reminds that the management board reduced the initial budget for 2018 by EUR 31,5 million by means of two amending budgets to respond to the lower needs linked to recruitment challenges and savings in return and operational response;

Amendment

3. Notes the slight budget increase to EUR 289 million (an increase of 2 %), of which EUR 171 million or 59 % was assigned to financing agreements with cooperating countries for operational activities; reminds that the management board reduced the initial budget for 2018 by EUR 31,5 million by means of two amending budgets to respond to the lower needs linked to recruitment challenges and savings in return and operational response; recalls the fact that the objective of safer borders in the Union is essential to ensuring the security of Union citizens and of third-country nationals;

Or. en

Amendment 5
Saskia Bricmont
on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

Draft opinion

Amendment

PE644.914v01-00
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4. **Welcomes** the fact that the Agency managed to substantially increase its staff from 526 to 630 (an increase of 20%) in 2018; **regrets**, however, that the number **stayed well below (17 % less than) the 760 staff** authorised in the establishment plan for 2018; expresses its concern over the high staff turnover and the continuous difficulties of the Agency to find suitable candidates; **acknowledges that the low salary correction coefficient contributes to the problem and therefore welcomes the intention to consider social measures to address this problem**; **notes in this regard** that the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Union and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union **offer the necessary flexibility for labour market conditions prevailing in the Union to be taken into account when recruiting officials in order to address the specific needs of the institutions**; notes that the Court has identified a horizontal trend across agencies in the use of external staff hired in IT consultancy roles; calls for this dependency on external recruitment in this important area to be addressed; **notes** the Agency to publish vacancy notices on the European Personnel Selection Office website to increase their visibility;

4. **Stresses** the fact that the Agency managed to substantially increase its staff from 526 to 630 (an increase of 20%) in 2018; **notes**, however, that it **did not achieve** the number of 760 staff authorised in the establishment plan for 2018; expresses its concern over the high staff turnover and the continuous difficulties of the Agency to find suitable candidates; **deeply deplores that, despite repeated calls of Parliament and a significant overall staff increase for the Agency, the fundamental rights officer still lacks adequate human resources and is therefore clearly hampered in her or his efforts to properly conduct the tasks with which she or he is entrusted**; urges the Agency to provide its fundamental rights officer with adequate resources and staff, in particular for further developing and implementing the Agency’s strategy to monitor and ensure the protection of fundamental rights; reminds the Agency of the importance of adhering to the Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Union and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union; notes that the Court has identified a horizontal trend across agencies in the use of external staff hired in IT consultancy roles; calls for this dependency on external recruitment in this important area to be addressed; **calls on the Agency to publish vacancy notices on the European Personnel Selection Office website to increase their visibility**;

Amendment 6
Olivier Chastel, Morten Petersen

Draft opinion
Paragraph 4

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Amendment 7
Saskia Bricmont
on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

5. Notes the continuously high level of carry-overs to 2019 (EUR 83 million EUR or 29%) and cancelled budget carry-
overs (EUR 11 million or 12 %), which were linked to the challenges in meeting the establishment plan, the delay in the launch of the building of the new premises and the multi-annual nature of ICT projects and the overestimation of the scale and cost of activities by cooperating countries; expects the Agency and the cooperating states to improve their budget estimates with a view to decrease the carry-overs in 2019; welcomes the fact that the Agency has adopted new rules on whistleblowing, launched a new simplified financing scheme, introduced an ex-post control system covering all types of expenditure and modified its system of ex-ante checks; regrets, however, that the Agency has still not addressed the problem reported by the Court since 2014 with regard to insufficient proof of actual costs for equipment-related expenditure claimed by cooperating Member States; notes the steps taken by the Agency to address this issue but urges the Agency to adequately respond to the comments of the Court given that equipment-related expenditure amounted to EUR 60 million or 35 % of the Agency’s operational expenditure in 2018;

Amendment 8
Pernando Barrena Arza, Clare Daly, Konstantinos Arvanitis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

5. Notes the continuously high level of carry-overs to 2019 (EUR 83 million EUR or 29 %) and cancelled budget carry-overs (EUR 11 million or 12 %), which were linked to the challenges in meeting the establishment plan, the delay in the launch of the building of the new premises and the multi-annual nature of ICT projects
and the overestimation of the scale and cost of activities by cooperating countries; expects the Agency and the cooperating states to improve their budget estimates with a view to decrease the carry-overs in 2019; welcomes the fact that the Agency has adopted new rules on whistleblowing, launched a new simplified financing scheme, introduced an ex-post control system covering all types of expenditure and modified its system of ex-ante checks; regrets, however, that the Agency has still not addressed the problem reported by the Court since 2014 with regard to insufficient proof of actual costs for equipment-related expenditure claimed by cooperating Member States; notes the steps taken by the Agency to address this issue but urges the Agency to adequately respond to the comments of the Court given that equipment-related expenditure amounted to EUR 60 million or 35 % of the Agency’s operational expenditure in 2018; 

Expects its concerns as regards the part of the budget that could not be absorbed by the Agency; expects the Agency and the cooperating states to improve their budget estimates with a view to decrease the carry-overs in 2019; welcomes the fact that the Agency has adopted new rules on whistleblowing, launched a new simplified financing scheme, introduced an ex-post control system covering all types of expenditure and modified its system of ex-ante checks; regrets, however, that the Agency has still not addressed the problem reported by the Court since 2014 with regard to insufficient proof of actual costs for equipment-related expenditure claimed by cooperating Member States; notes the steps taken by the Agency to address this issue but urges the Agency to adequately respond to the comments of the Court given that equipment-related expenditure amounted to EUR 60 million or 35 % of the Agency’s operational expenditure in 2018; 

Or. en

Amendment 9
Tom Vandendriessche

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5

5. Notes the continuously high level of carry-overs to 2019 (EUR 83 million EUR or 29 %) and cancelled budget carry-overs (EUR 11 million or 12 %), which were linked to the challenges in meeting the establishment plan, the delay in the launch of the building of the new premises and the multi-annual nature of ICT projects and the overestimation of the scale and cost of activities by cooperating countries; expects the Agency and the cooperating
states to improve their budget estimates with a view to decrease the carry-overs in 2019; welcomes the fact that the Agency has adopted new rules on whistleblowing, launched a new simplified financing scheme, introduced an ex-post control system covering all types of expenditure and modified its system of ex-ante checks; regrets, however, that the Agency has still not addressed the problem reported by the Court since 2014 with regard to insufficient proof of actual costs for equipment-related expenditure claimed by cooperating Member States; notes the steps taken by the Agency to address this issue but urges the Agency to adequately respond to the comments of the Court given that equipment-related expenditure amounted to EUR 60 million or 35% of the Agency’s operational expenditure in 2018;

5. **Note** the continuously high level of carry-overs to 2019 (EUR 83 million EUR or 29%) and cancelled budget carry-overs (EUR 11 million or 12%), which were linked to the challenges in meeting the establishment plan, the delay in the launch of the building of the new premises and the multi-annual nature of ICT projects and the overestimation of the scale and cost of activities by cooperating countries; expects the Agency and the cooperating states to improve their budget estimates with a view to decrease the carry-overs in 2019; welcomes the fact that the Agency has adopted new rules on whistleblowing, launched a new simplified financing scheme, introduced an ex-post control system covering all types of expenditure and modified its system of ex-ante checks; regrets, however, that the Agency has still not addressed the problem reported by the Court since 2014 with regard to insufficient proof of actual costs for equipment-related expenditure claimed by cooperating Member States; notes the steps taken by the Agency to address this issue but urges the Agency to adequately respond to the comments of the Court given that equipment-related expenditure amounted to EUR 60 million or 35% of the Agency’s operational expenditure in 2018;

Olivier Chastel, Morten Petersen

**Draft opinion**

**Paragraph 5**

Draft opinion

5. **Notes** the continuously high level of carry-overs to 2019 (EUR 83 million EUR or 29%) and cancelled budget carry-overs (EUR 11 million or 12%), which were linked to the challenges in meeting the establishment plan, the delay in the launch of the building of the new premises and the multi-annual nature of ICT projects and the overestimation of the scale and cost of activities by cooperating countries; expects the Agency and the cooperating states to improve their budget estimates with a view to decrease the carry-overs in 2019; welcomes the fact that the Agency has adopted new rules on whistleblowing, launched a new simplified financing
scheme, introduced an ex-post control system covering all types of expenditure and modified its system of ex-ante checks; regrets, however, that the Agency has still not addressed the problem reported by the Court since 2014 with regard to insufficient proof of actual costs for equipment-related expenditure claimed by cooperating Member States; notes the steps taken by the Agency to address this issue but urges the Agency to adequately respond to the comments of the Court given that equipment-related expenditure amounted to EUR 60 million or 35 % of the Agency’s operational expenditure in 2018;

5. **Notes** the continuously high level of carry-overs to 2019 (EUR 83 million EUR or 29 %) and cancelled budget carry-overs (EUR 11 million or 12 %), which were linked to the challenges in meeting the establishment plan, the delay in the launch of the building of the new premises and the multi-annual nature of ICT projects and the overestimation of the scale and cost of activities by cooperating countries; expects the Agency and the cooperating states to improve their budget estimates with a view to decrease the carry-overs in 2019; welcomes the fact that the Agency has adopted new rules on whistleblowing, launched a new simplified financing scheme, introduced an ex-post control system covering all types of expenditure and modified its system of ex-ante checks; regrets, however, that the Agency has still not addressed the problem reported by the
Court since 2014 with regard to insufficient proof of actual costs for equipment-related expenditure claimed by cooperating Member States; notes the steps taken by the Agency to address this issue but urges the Agency to adequately respond to the comments of the Court given that equipment-related expenditure amounted to EUR 60 million or 35 % of the Agency’s operational expenditure in 2018;

Amendment 12
Saskia Bricmont
on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)

Draft opinion

5 a. Calls on the Agency to make more realistic estimates of its service needs in tender documents and apply rigorous financial management to contracts; reminds the Agency that, while framework contracts do not constitute an obligation to purchase up to the maximum contract value, the considerable difference between the maximum value of the contract in one procurement procedure in 2018 (EUR 8 million) and the winning offer (EUR 5,8 million) could create a significant risk to sound financial management;

Amendment

Or. en

Amendment 13
Nicola Procaccini

Draft opinion
Paragraph 5 a (new)
5 a. Considers that the Agency should strengthen ex-ante verifications and reintroduce ex-post verifications to make sure that only substantiated costs are reimbursed in order to avoid the situation whereby financial resources allocated under the Union budget are not dispersed;

Amendment 14
Saskia Bricmont
on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

6. **Calls on** the Agency to take corrective action with regard to all outstanding observations of the Court, including the adoption and implementation of a sensitive posts policy in line with its own internal control standards;

Amendment
6. **Urges** the Agency to take corrective action with regard to all the observations of the Court, including the adoption and implementation of a sensitive posts policy in line with its own internal control standards;

Amendment 15
Lucia Žuriš Nicholsonová, Robert Roos

6 a. **Recalls the observation of the Court that, since 2015, there is an unaddressed risk of double funding from the Internal Security Fund, managed by the Commission, and Agency funding; calls, to that end, for the implementation of corrective actions without further delay;**
Amendment 16
Lucia Ŏuriš Nicholsonová, Robert Roos

Draft opinion
Paragraph 6 b (new)

Draft opinion

Amendment

6 b. Calls on the Agency to follow up on the outstanding recommendation regarding e-procurement, namely the introduction of e-submission, without delay;

Amendment 17
Tom Vandendriessche

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7

Draft opinion

Amendment

7. Reiterates the persisting significant gender imbalance in the Agency’s management board; urges that this imbalance is remedied as soon as possible; calls therefore on the Agency to proactively remind Member States of the importance of gender balance and on Member States to take gender balance into consideration when nominating their members to the management board;

Amendment 18
Olivier Chastel, Morten Petersen

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7
7. Reiterates the persisting significant gender imbalance in the Agency’s management board; urges that this imbalance is remedied as soon as possible; calls therefore on the Agency to proactively remind Member States of the importance of gender balance and on Member States to take gender balance into consideration when nominating their members to the management board;

Amendment

7. *Notes the lack of information on gender balance within the staff of the Agency;* reiterates the persisting significant gender imbalance in the Agency’s management board; urges that this imbalance is remedied as soon as possible; calls therefore on the Agency to proactively remind Member States of the importance of gender balance and on Member States to take gender balance into consideration when nominating their members to the management board;

Or. en

Amendment 19
Saskia Bricmont
on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 7

Draft opinion

7. Reiterates the persisting significant gender imbalance in the Agency’s management board; urges that this imbalance is remedied as soon as possible; calls therefore on the Agency to proactively remind Member States of the importance of gender balance and on Member States to *take gender balance into consideration* when nominating their members to the management board;

Amendment

7. Reiterates the persisting significant gender imbalance in the Agency’s management board; urges that this imbalance is remedied as soon as possible; calls therefore on the Agency to proactively remind Member States of the importance of gender balance and on Member States to *ensure* gender balance when nominating their members to the Agency’s management board;

Or. en

Amendment 20
Saskia Bricmont
on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

Draft opinion
Paragraph 8
Draft opinion

8. Reiterates its call on the Agency to be more transparent about its activities; welcomes the creation of a section devoted to public access to documents on its website; urges the Agency to create a register of documents, which it is legally obliged to have under Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001¹;


Amendment

8. Reiterates its call on the Agency to ensure full transparency in its activities; welcomes the creation of a section devoted to public access to documents on its website; urges the Agency to create a register of documents, which it is legally obliged to have under Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001¹;


Draft opinion

9. Considers that the Agency should proactively provide information regarding its operational activities in order to protect it from unfounded accusations; invites the Agency to come to the LIBE committee to fulfil its specific reporting duties towards Members of the European Parliament by providing regular detailed briefings, where necessary in a non-public setting; calls on the Agency to make the report on the practical application of Regulation (EU) No 656/2014² for the year 2018 available, as it is legally obliged to do, and to provide more tangible information in the future to allow for a proper assessment of the Agency’s activities at sea.

Amendment

9. Considers that the Agency should proactively provide information regarding its operational activities; invites the Agency to come to the LIBE committee to fulfil its specific reporting duties towards Members of the European Parliament by providing regular detailed briefings; calls on the Agency to make the report on the practical application of Regulation (EU) No 656/2014² for the year 2018 available, as it is legally obliged to do, and to provide more tangible information in the future to allow for a proper assessment of the Agency’s activities at sea.

Amendment 21

Saskia Bricmont
on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

Draft opinion

Paragraph 9

9. Considers that the Agency should proactively provide information regarding its operational activities in order to protect it from unfounded accusations; invites the Agency to come to the LIBE committee to fulfil its specific reporting duties towards Members of the European Parliament by providing regular detailed briefings, where necessary in a non-public setting; calls on the Agency to make the report on the practical application of Regulation (EU) No 656/2014 for the year 2018 available, as it is legally obliged to do, and to provide more tangible information in the future to allow for a proper assessment of the Agency’s activities at sea.

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Amendment 22

Tom Vandendriessche

Draft opinion

Paragraph 9

9. Considers that the Agency should proactively provide information regarding its operational activities in order to protect it from unfounded accusations; invites the Agency to come to the LIBE committee to fulfil its specific reporting duties towards Members of the European Parliament by providing regular detailed briefings, where necessary in a non-public setting; calls on the Agency to make the report on the practical application of Regulation (EU) No 656/2014 for the year 2018 available, as it is legally obliged to do, and to provide more tangible information in the future to allow for a proper assessment of the Agency’s activities at sea.

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Amendment 23
Caterina Chinnici

Draft opinion
Paragraph 9

Draft opinion

9. Considers that the Agency should proactively provide information regarding its operational activities in order to protect it from unfounded accusations; invites the Agency to come to the LIBE committee to fulfil its specific reporting duties towards Members of the European Parliament by providing regular detailed briefings, where necessary in a non-public setting; calls on the Agency to make the report on the practical application of Regulation (EU) No 656/2014\(^2\) for the year 2018 available, as it is legally obliged to do, and to provide more tangible information in the future to allow for a proper assessment of the Agency’s activities at sea.

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Amendment 24
Nicola Procaccini

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Draft opinion
Paragraph 9

9. Considers that the Agency should proactively provide information regarding its operational activities in order to protect it from unfounded accusations; invites the Agency to come to the LIBE committee to fulfil its specific reporting duties towards Members of the European Parliament by providing regular detailed briefings, where necessary in a non-public setting; calls on the Agency to make the report on the practical application of Regulation (EU) No 656/2014\(^2\) for the year 2018 available, as it is legally obliged to do, and to provide more tangible information in the future to allow for a proper assessment of the Agency’s activities at sea.

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Amendment 25
Pernando Barrena Arza, Clare Daly, Konstantinos Arvanitis

Draft opinion
Paragraph 9 a (new)

9 a. Recalls that, in accordance with point (b) of Article 22(3) of Regulation (EU) 2016/1624 of the European Parliament and of the Council\(^a\), the
The coordinating officer of the Agency is to monitor the correct implementation of the operational plan, including as regards the protection of fundamental rights, and report to the Agency thereon; urgently calls, in that regard, for systematic reporting on violations of fundamental rights that occurred at borders where the Agency is present, including where those violations were committed by officers who do not belong to the Agency, as it has an impact on the overall respect of fundamental rights of European border and coast guard operations; calls for particular attention to be paid to potential push-backs and violence; urges the Agency to report those violations to the fundamental rights officer, who should take appropriate action, including possible suspension of European border and coast guard operations in area concerned;


Or. en