

Question for written answer E-004904/2018
to the Commission
Rule 130
Brice Hortefeux (PPE)

Subject: Frontex - surveillance of the external sea borders - cooperation with non-EU countries

In its conclusions of 28 June 2018, the European Council envisaged a change of approach regarding the disembarkment of people rescued in search and rescue operations. It has therefore invited the Council and the Commission to investigate the idea of regional disembarkment platforms, in close cooperation with non-EU countries.

Following on from this, it appears that the mandate of Frontex in terms of the surveillance of the external sea borders derives from the obligations set out in Regulation (EU) No 656/2014. Its missions have not been updated, in spite of the broadening of its competences in 2016 and the migrant crisis.

However, while the Member States are required to comply with their obligations under international law when conducting external sea border operations (Law of the Sea, International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea), the regulation imposes further requirements on Frontex which effectively make it impossible for it to cooperate with non-EU countries.

Given this situation, will the Commission revise or repeal Regulation (EU) No 656/2014 in order to take into account the current circumstances and the conclusions of the European Council?