

EN

E-004294/2021

Answer given by Ms Johansson
on behalf of the European Commission
(8.11.2021)

The Commission has asked the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) to reply to the first and third questions put forward by the Honourable Member which fall within its remit. The Agency's reply will be sent by the Commission to the Honourable Member as soon as possible.

As regards the second question, Regulation (EU) 2019/1896¹ provides for the possibility for the Agency's statutory staff (category 1) to the standing corps to carry and use service weapons, including firearms, when they are deployed as members of border management teams, migration management support teams and return teams in accordance with the rules laid down in Article 82 and Annex V to that Regulation.

In accordance with Article 63 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 on the European Border and Coast Guard, Frontex may acquire technical equipment required for its operational activities. Such equipment may include firearms and ammunition. The transportation and storage of firearms, ammunition and other equipment is regulated by Decision 4/2021² of 18 January 2021 of Frontex's Management Board adopted pursuant to Article 55(5)(c) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896. The Decision sets out detailed rules on the storage of weapons, including firearms and non-lethal weapons, ammunition and other equipment owned by the Agency in secured facilities and their transportation.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 November 2019 on the European Border and Coast Guard and repealing Regulation (EU) 1052/2013 and (EU) 2016/1624 OJ L 295 of 14.11.2019, p. 1.

² Agenda Point 4 of the Management Board Decision on storage and transportation of weapons. See: https://frontex.europa.eu/assets/Key_Documents/MB_Decision/2021/MB_Decision_4_2021establishing_specific_rules_to_facilitate_the_storage_of_weapons.pdf