



European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders
of the Member States of the European Union

Frontex Annual Report 2006

*Coordination of intelligence driven operational
cooperation at EU level to strengthen security at
external borders*

Foreword from the Chairperson of the Management Board

I am pleased to present the first Annual Report of the European Agency for the management of operational coordination at the external borders of the Member States of the European Union – in short Frontex.

The report sets out the operational activities as well as the administrative and financial management, including budgetary management, during the past year and also our plans for the future.

This is the first annual report for a full year of operation prepared by Frontex since the Council Regulation (EC) 2007/2004 creating Frontex was adopted on 26 October 2004.

I would like to seize this opportunity and give some short historical background on the creation of Frontex, followed by a description of the course Frontex has set out for the years to come.

The aim of Community policy in the field of EU external borders is to set up integrated management ensuring a high and uniform level of checks on persons and surveillance as a prerequisite for the establishment of an area of freedom, security and justice.

In its Communication of 7 May 2002 entitled "Towards integrated management of the external borders of the Member States of the European Union", the Commission advocated the setting-up of an "external borders practitioners' common unit" tasked with managing operational cooperation at the Member States' external borders..

The plan for the management of EU external borders agreed by the Council on 13 June 2002 endorsed the establishment of an external borders practitioners' common unit as a means of realizing integrated management at the external borders. However, this unit has demonstrated structural limitations as regards coordination of operational cooperation.

Finally, Frontex was set up on 1 May 2005 (Council Regulation (EC) 2007/2004) to manage and to coordinate the operational activities between Member States. The Justice and Home Affairs Council had decided that the seat of the Agency would be Warsaw. The Agency builds on the extensive legacy, (legal) structures and experiences that have forgone it and combines these into a powerful operational "centre". You will find a list of the Members of the Management Board in the Annex of this report.

Although responsibility for the control and surveillance of external borders lies with the Member States, Frontex will facilitate the application of existing and future Community measures relating to the management of these borders. Community policy will clearly benefit from increased coordination of their activities as regards the control and surveillance of external borders. In this context, external borders means the Member States' land and sea borders and airports and seaports, to which the provisions of Community law on the crossing of external borders by persons apply.

The Executive Director, Brigadier General Ilkka Laitinen from Finland, was appointed by the Management Board on proposal by the European Commission on 25 May 2005 and the Agency started its actual operational work on 3 October 2005 in Warsaw.

Due to the high level of relevant experience and expertise in the field of operational cooperation on border management, the Management Board is well equipped to support the Agency to fulfil its tasks. After a year of gradual and crucial development, where the emphasis on administrative tasks outweigh operational activities the focus has shifted to high profile operations combating large inflows on EU soil of illegal migrations in the Mediterranean area. In 2006, Frontex further professionalized border management and started meaningful initiatives like the Frontex Joint Support Teams and the pooling of technical equipment from Member States. Operational coordination with Third Countries has been established, an ongoing process necessary to explore the strengths of combined efforts.

With the RABIT Regulation to be approved shortly, Frontex is well positioned to cope with the responsibility that follows this decision. It requires an ever growing need for Member States to support the Agency to meet these challenges and fulfil the expectations of the Agency's environment at large.

In 2006 a lot has been achieved and I would like to thank the Agency for its efforts with the significant progress as a result. I have great confidence in the future that undoubtedly will present lots of hurdles. The Agency is equipped to deal with them.

Sincerely yours,

Minze A. Beuving

Deliberations and decisions of the Management Board in 2006

In 2006, the work of the Management Board can be characterised as very intensive. On the one hand the Management Board needed to ensure that sufficient resources would be made available in view of the dynamic development of the agency.

During 2006, five Management Board meetings took place. Whereas during 2005 the main regulatory instruments were adopted to enable the administrative functioning of the Agency 2006 was the first full year of Frontex being operational. Apart of the tasks given to the Management Board by the Regulation, a particular attention laid upon the strategic importance of budgetary and staffing issues as well as the first operational activities of the agency.

Please find below some selected decisions adopted by the Management Board during the year:

- Establishment of procedures for taking decisions related to the operational tasks of the Agency by the Executive Director;
- Setting up of a framework on how the United Kingdom can participate in the Agency's activities;
- Adoption of a framework decision how Frontex can cooperate with third countries and empowering the Executive Director to launch such negotiations with selected countries; a particular stress was laid upon facilitating cooperation with Romania and Bulgaria before they joined the EU;
- Identification of the unused fund 2005 to be carried over in order to be spent during 2006;
- Launch of an amendment procedure for the Establishment Plan 2006 in order to be able to recruit more staff;
- Adoption of two amendments to the budget 2006, increasing it from € 12.3 Mio to € 19.2 Mio;
- Adoption of the draft budget 2007 and the Establishment Plan.

Apart from these decisions taken, the Management Board also regularly received a briefing from the Executive Director on the state of play of the activities of the agency. The medium-term planning of the agency was of particular attention, touching issues like direction of Frontex development in view of improving the integrated border management.

Introductory remarks by the Executive Director

On 3 October 2005, Frontex began work at its temporary premises in Warsaw. On that day, 27 experts seconded from the national border guard authorities and 17 administrative staff sat around the table. At the end of 2006 during the Frontex Christmas Party, we were 72 staff that met, celebrating the first year of actual existence.

In the course of 2006, we have seen our overall budget increasing from € 12.4 Mio to € 19.2 Mio and our programme of work being extended consecutively by the Management Board.

During 2006 Frontex had to handle two important tasks simultaneously, which created quite a unique situation: On the one hand, Frontex had to prove and show that it was already in a position to actually coordinate the operational cooperation of the Member States at the external borders. On the other hand, the agency needed to create and develop the organisation at the same time, including the administrative and financial management framework; Frontex also needed to recruit staff in order to be able to respond to the challenges on operational side.

During 2006, all Member States and Schengen Associated Countries participated in at least one of Frontex activities, whether it was in the field of joint operations and/ or pilot projects, risk analysis, training or research and development.

The field of activity of Frontex is very broad and inscribed at the same time into framework logic – the one of the integrated border management which Frontex does not only promote, but also tries to further develop.

Frontex promotes a pan European model of four tier access control model, which consists not only of border controls, but also some other important elements. The exchange of information and cooperation between Member States, immigration and repatriation form the first tier of the model. The second tier is represented by border control including surveillance, border checks and risk analysis followed by cooperation with border guards, customs and police authorities in neighbouring countries which forms the third entity. The last part is related to the cooperation with third countries including common activities. Frontex also promotes the cooperation between the authorities in the field of border management at the national and international level and is identifying its role and room for manoeuvre.

Having familiarised you with these key principles, I would also like to take this opportunity and present to the reader our mission statement, which embraces all aspects mentioned before:

- Frontex is a trustworthy operational European coordinator and contributor which is fully respected and supported by Member States and third countries.
- It actively promotes cooperation with other border related law enforcement bodies responsible for internal security at EU level.
- The activities of Frontex are intelligence driven. Frontex complements and provides particular added value to the national border management systems of the Member States and to the freedom and security of their citizens.
- The effectiveness of Frontex is based on its highly motivated and professional personnel.

- Frontex is a key player in the implementation of common EU policy for Integrated Border Management and it actively promotes the gradual development and effective functioning of the EU Integrated Border Management System.

The Commission and particularly the Justice and Home Affairs Council have been following closely the development of Frontex and its activities and also gave new impulses.

I would like to express my thanks to the Management Board, all Frontex staff as well as to all our partners for their active support during 2006.

Having mentioned all this I am proud to present the Frontex annual report 2006, it has been an extraordinary year for our staff, our partners and also for myself.

Sincerely yours,

Ilkka Laitinen

Situation at the EU external borders 2006 – a brief overview

Based on the information provided by the EU Member States, Schengen associated countries, other institutional and open sources Frontex is tasked to collect and analyse the key findings picturing the scale and trends of illegal immigration towards the external borders.

In general it can be stated that the EU Member States and Schengen associated countries noted a decreasing trend of illegal entries at their external EU / Schengen borders.

Contrary to this general decreasing trend, detections and apprehensions have increased at the Spanish external borders and in Greece, mainly at the Turkish land border, as reported.

As in the previous years detection figures at the external Schengen land borders (mainly Austrian and German external Schengen land borders) are significantly higher than those at the EU external land borders. Frontex will monitor and assess how this situation develops after the forthcoming Schengen accession of the 10 new EU Member States. Again Schengen Member States reported a significant scale of detections within the internal Schengen borders as a consequence of inland migration and general police control measures (e.g. Germany, Austria, France, and the Netherlands). The main nationalities detected at the eastern external land borders in 2006 were Ukrainians, Romanians, Bulgarians, Serbians, Albanians, Moldovans and Indians.

The main border sections in regards to detection, apprehension and refusal of entry of illegal migrants are: the *land border* between Slovakia and Ukraine, between Slovenia and Croatia, between Greece and Albania as well as between Greece and Turkey. The *Austrian external Schengen borders*; the Spanish towns of Ceuta and Melilla; the Canary Islands; Sicily and the island of Lampedusa; the United Kingdom air and *sea borders*; the Greek - Turkish sea border is also a site of significant illegal immigration.

Frontex noticed an increase of illegal entries / refusals at the air borders; the airports of Paris Charles de Gaulle, London Heathrow, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Madrid and Milan remain the focal points of illegal immigration via air.

The main nationalities detected at the air borders are South and Central Americans, Chinese and Nigerians.

France and other Member States reported being indirectly affected by illegal immigration transiting from Africa to Spain and Italy. Due to the current legislation in place in some Member States, a significant number of migrants are released from detention after 30/40 days and then some of them continue their journey in the area of free movement of persons.

The top nationality of detected illegal immigrants at the southern EU maritime borders were Moroccans (ca. 70% of all detections at the Italian sea borders) followed by Sub Saharan nationals (mainly to Canary Islands), Eritrean nationals and Egyptians (mainly to Italy and Malta).

Modus Operandi for Frontex to perform its role as European coordinator

At the very beginning of Frontex' existence the Executive Director decided that due to the fact that Frontex shall cooperate with all Member States and Schengen Associated countries, a network would need to be established in order to ensure this coordination.

Each Member State and Schengen Associated Country identified and established so called ***National Frontex Point of Contacts*** (NFPoC). This single NFPoC per Member State/Schengen Associated Countries receives all information from Frontex and is tasked to distribute it within the national administration to the relevant authorities.

In July 2006 the first NFPoC meeting took place in Frontex and the modus operandi was agreed upon. It was also commonly agreed that for the various fields of activity of Frontex it was clear that several networks would need to be created like e.g. the Frontex Risk Analysis Network FRAN (see below) or the network of training coordinators. However the central idea behind the NFPoC was that one single point in the Member State / Schengen Associated Countries shall have the overview over all ongoing Frontex activities.

In order to avoid too lengthy procedures when it comes to the implementation of joint operations and pilot projects, Frontex concluded with each national administration a ***Framework Partnership Agreement***. This agreement is identical for all partners and sets the framework for the cooperation. This framework agreement is implemented practically with individual agreements with the Member State/Schengen Associated Countries.

In order to organize and promote the mutual support between the Member States and the Schengen Associated Countries, Frontex is also putting into place another very operational structure. This new gradually developed structure will form a basis for Frontex operational activities. It should test and evaluate new technical solutions and procedures for advanced border control performance as well. ***Frontex Joint Support Teams*** (FJST) will be teams comprised of Border Guard Officers from Member States and the Schengen Associated Countries, within which the members are supporting each other personally, technically or by offering equipment to locations or areas at land- and sea borders being identified as extraordinary in quality and/or quantity of migration related phenomena.

Frontex has also been actively involved in the discussion around the future Council Regulation on ***Rapid Border Intervention Teams*** (RABITs). A Member State will have the possibility to request the deployment, in the framework of Frontex, of Rapid Border Intervention Teams comprising specially trained experts from other Member States to its territory to assist its national border guards on a temporary basis. The deployment of the experts will contribute to increasing solidarity and mutual assistance between Member States. It is clear that this modus operandi will need to be closely coordinated with the FJST previously mentioned.

Decision making within Frontex in relation to operational tasks

One of the first decisions of the Management Board, as requested by the founding Regulation, was the ***establishment of procedures for taking decisions related to the operational tasks*** of Frontex. The decision making process, as adopted by the Management Board, is an integrated system of rules and procedures for the development of operational initiatives which consists of four stages:

1) **Risk Analysis or proposal of a Member State** (launching an operational activity), containing recommendations for joint measures;

2) **Preparation of operational initiative:** The preparations for an operational task are carried out by all relevant units of Frontex and are jointly handled and discussed during the Management meeting (which comprises all Head of units) in order to ensure the comprehensive and coherent preparation; if the Deputy Executive Director agrees to an initiative, it is forwarded for decision making to the Executive Director.

3) **The preparation of operational plan and the implementation:** The Head of Unit develops with his/her staff an operational plan, which has to be submitted to the Deputy Executive Director for approval. Preparations are carried out by all relevant units and discussed again during the Frontex management meeting in order to ensure also at this stage the comprehensive and coherent preparations. At the final stage the operational plan is endorsed by the Executive Director.

The operational plan among other includes general description of the preparations, schedule, way of action, technical means and manpower available, detailed budget for the operation, communication plan implementation costs, risks connected with implementation etc. The Project Manager and the Unit designated for the individual project is in charge for the overall implementation of an activity.

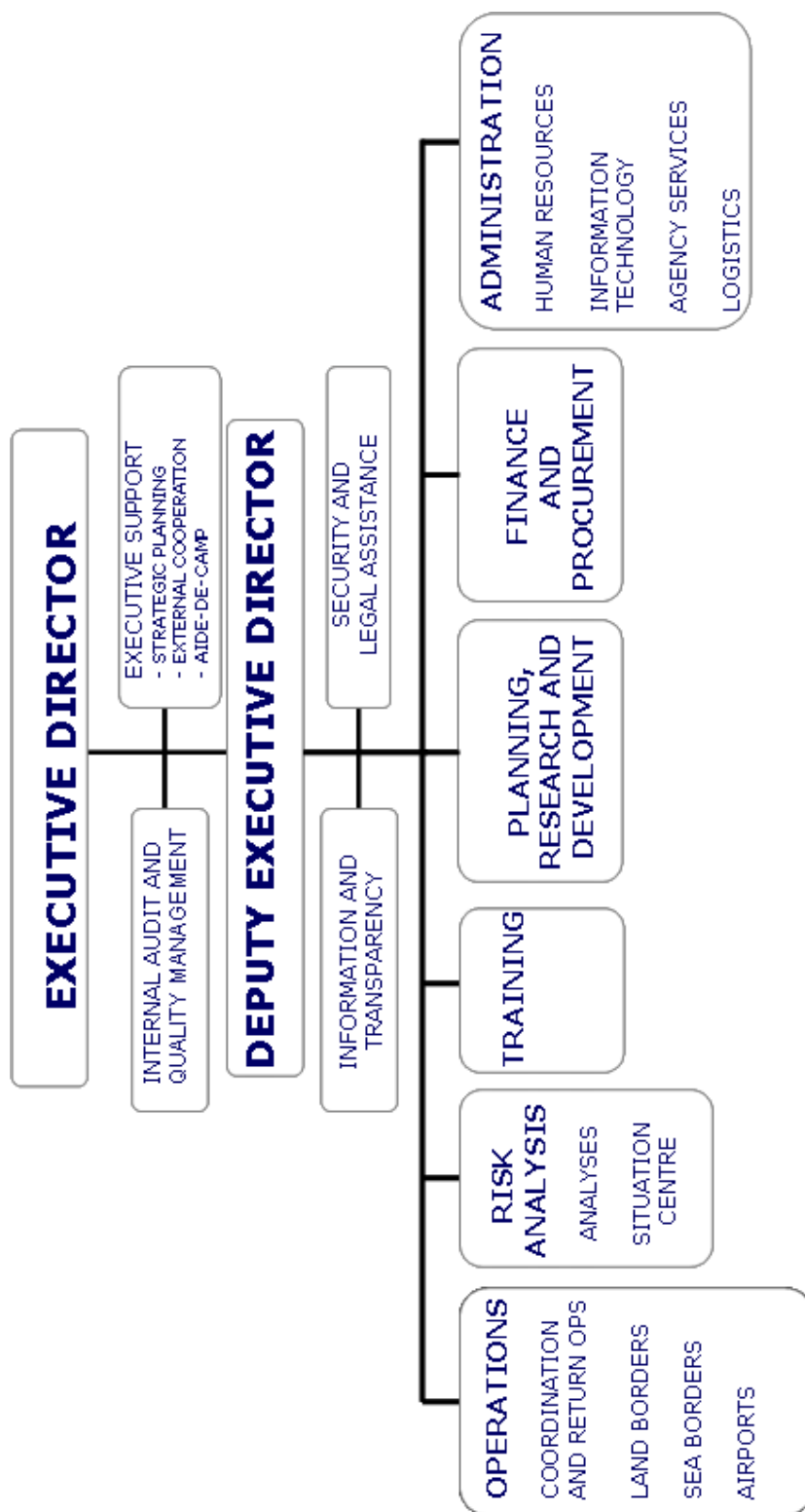
4) **Evaluation/follow up:** An evaluation report based on results achieved will be prepared, taking into consideration contributions of the host country and participating states as well as contributions of seconded officers. The evaluation report deals also with shortcomings and problems which became distinct during the operation. The Head of Unit presents the final report to the Frontex management meeting; they will submit its recommendations on follow up actions to the Deputy Executive Director and the Executive Director for further considerations.

The Frontex organisation

The **main tasks** of Frontex according to the founding Regulation are the following:

- Frontex should coordinate operational cooperation between Member States in the field of management of external borders;
- Frontex should assist Member States on training of national border guards, including the establishment of common training standards;
- Frontex should carry out risk analyses;
- Frontex should follow up on the development of research relevant for the control and surveillance of external borders;
- Frontex should assist Member States in circumstances requiring increased technical and operational assistance at external borders;
- Frontex should provide Member States with the necessary support in organizing joint return operations.

The organisational structure of Frontex in 2006 reflects clearly these tasks:



Frontex operational activities

Joint operations and pilot projects

During 2006, 15 joint operations based on risk analysis have been implemented, out of which 5 were to be completed during the first quarter 2007. The activities covered all border areas, whether they were implemented at the sea, land border or at airports. The geographical areas of the joint operations as well as the point in time of their implementation have been identified in the risk assessment and/or threat analysis at the external borders.

Please find some illustrating example of Frontex joint operations below.

Poseidon: An example of a joint land/sea border operation

Increased land and maritime border checks and surveillance as well as exchange and improvement of knowledge and skills of border guard officers were the main aims of the operation Poseidon that took place in June – July 2006 in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea area, in the Greek territorial waters, and on the Greek – Turkish land border.

The outcomes of the operation confirmed the presumption that this region is on one of the important routes of illegal immigration to the European Union. The participation of liaison officers from Austria, Italy, Poland and the United Kingdom contributed to the number of detected cases of illegal immigration and human smuggling. Besides, their presence proved useful in enhancing exchange of information and expertise especially on various types of travel documents essential for detection of false/falsified documents.

During this two-week operation, the total of 422 persons trying to travel illegally were detected. These include 86 persons detected in Greek and Italian ports (cases of persons hidden in vehicles, use of false documents or travel without any travel documents and cases of facilitation), 73 persons detected at sea and 263 illegal migrants detected at the land border (including 6 cases of facilitation of illegal immigration).

Amazon: An example of a joint operation at airports

Based on a risk analysis, Frontex decided to support the EU Member States in their efforts to counteract illegal immigration from South America. In this regard, the big airports in the EU are targeted and were therefore a part of an operation named Amazon.

In order to support the most affected EU air borders in this respect, a team of EU Member States' experts had been set up and deployed at the key EU transit and destination airports. These experts were experienced in detecting falsified documents and they supported the colleague border guard officers in the airports concerned and tried to detect as many forgeries as possible. Another very important asset in such operations is to have experts with specific language and cultural knowledge. Sharing the relevant information obtained in the course of the operation and carrying out its analysis was a key component of the operational plan. A coordination centre was set up within Frontex Headquarters to support the management of the operational activities.

During the three-week operation an overall number of 3 166 third country nationals were refused entry via the airports supported by this project; 1 992 out of the 3 166 third country nationals were South American nationals. Fact is that the general percentage of refused South American nationals lies currently at 62.9% and can be considered as very high. During the operational phase 199 false / counterfeit / forged documents were detected.

According to Article 8 of the founding Regulation, *one or more Member States confronted with circumstances requiring increased technical and operational assistance in the field of border control and surveillance of external borders* may request Frontex for assistance. The risk analysis had already indicated, based on statistics from the previous years, that there was an increasing pressure on the external sea borders.

However, the influx of illegal migrants landing on the Canary Islands, and to a lesser, but still alarming extent, on Malta and Lampedusa during early summer 2006 established sufficient ground to activate Article 8. Please find below some details on these operations.

Hera I and II: a joint sea operation based on Article 8 combined with a return operation

The flow of illegal immigration towards the Canary Islands was during 2006 in the focus of Frontex activities, being a part of one of the main four routes to the EU, as identified by Frontex risk analysis. Between June and December 2006, over 20 000 illegal immigrants arrived on the Canary Islands.

The deployment of experts (HERA I) commenced on 17 July 2006 when a group of 9 experts from the Member States arrived in the Canary Islands to support the Spanish authorities in identification of the immigrants and establishment of their countries of origin

This first group of experts, which was deployed until the 17 August, included the involvement of France, Portugal, Italy and Germany. As this assistance proved useful, a second group of experts (9) commenced their activities, including Italy, the United Kingdom, Portugal and Germany. They were later joined by experts from the Netherlands. The third group of experts started on 19 September and it consisted of experts from the Netherlands (2), France (2), Italy (2), Portugal (4) and Norway (1). Frontex experts and Spanish authorities identified 100% of the illegal migrants. 6076 of those illegal migrants were returned to their countries of origin back by the Spanish authorities; the countries of origin were mainly Morocco, Senegal, Mali, Gambia and Guinea. Through the information collected during the interviews, it was possible to detain several facilitators mainly in Senegal and to avoid the departure of more than one thousand people.

The second module – a joint sea surveillance operation called HERA II - started on 11 August and brought together technical border surveillance equipment from several Member States with the aim to enhance the control of the area between the West African coast and the Canary Islands, thus diverting the vessels using this migration route and contributing to the reduction of human lives lost at sea during the dangerous long journey. For the first time such an operation was carried out in the territorial waters of Senegal and Mauritania and in close cooperation with the local authorities. Apart from Spanish vessels and helicopters, the operation included one Portuguese and one Italian vessel and one Italian air craft. The duration of the operation was 9 weeks, later prolonged until 15 December 2006. A Finnish aircraft was used during the prolongation. Altogether 7 Member States/Schengen Associated Countries participated in the so far longest operation coordinated by Frontex with a total budget of € 3.5 Mio.

During the operational phase of HERA II, 3887 illegal immigrants on 57 Cayucos (small fishing boats) were intercepted close to the African coast and diverted.

During HERA I and II operations, close to 5000 illegal immigrants could be stopped from setting off for a dangerous journey that might have cost their lives.

Frontex supported the Member States concerned in bringing the situation at the external border under control by coordinating the activities.

Nautilus I: Yet another sea operation based on Article 8 combined with a return operation

Detections and apprehensions had dramatically increased against the general trend not only at the Spanish external borders, but also at the sea border in Malta and southern Italy.

Two operations were prepared in the region. Within the first one, a group of experts dealing with identification of migrants started working in Malta on 1 August, including experts from the UK, Denmark, Hungary, Germany and Italy. The work carried out by the experts in Malta substantially contributed to the number of successfully identified migrants and thus increased the possibility of their return to their countries of origin. Around 300 interviews with illegal immigrants were carried out and the national experts together with the interpreters provided Maltese colleagues with conclusions on migrants' most probable country of origin. The received results are to be presented to the third-country authorities to accept the immigrants for issuing travel documents and then to organise their return.

Besides, a joint sea operation comprising 5 Member States (Malta, Italy, Greece, France and Germany) took place between 5 and 15 October 2006. The operation aimed at performing surveillance of the southern maritime borders of the European Union, with the prime objective of combating illegal immigration flows to Malta and Lampedusa. This objective was reached despite the difficult weather conditions during the period of the operation. This operation also aimed at creating a shared operational foundation for improved co-operation and co-ordination of border control operations amongst Mediterranean EU Member States.

Another series of joint operations focussed on managing the Focal Point Offices at the external land borders. Focal Point Offices are local border guard groups of experts dealing with border control or border surveillance in a geographically defined area, situated at "hot spots". The main characteristic of Focal Point Offices consists in the fact that guest officers from other Member States support and assist the hosting border guard authority which remains fully responsible for every action taken.

Another form of activity in the field of operational cooperation is the *pilot project*. Pilot projects are used in order to test some new elements in border management or to develop new ones and then to take the decision whether to develop them further or not.

Seven pilot projects were launched during 2006, three with regard to the Mediterranean area, three in the area of best practices and one concerning the cooperation with neighbouring third countries.

A feasibility study can be one of the forms of the pilot projects.

Example of pilot projects: The feasibility studies Medsea and Bortec

The Presidency Conclusions from the European Council of 15/16 December 2005 called on Frontex to launch a feasibility study on reinforcing monitoring and surveillance of the southern maritime border of the EU, namely in the Mediterranean Sea, and on a Mediterranean Coastal Patrols Network involving EU Member States and North African countries.

This task has been fulfilled by the MEDSEA study. This study, which Frontex delivered in July 2006, gives the organizational structure and the way to exchange information ensuring the coordination of such operational activity in an EU approach.

The same Council Conclusions requested to explore the technical feasibility of establishing a surveillance system covering the whole southern maritime border of the EU and the Mediterranean Sea.

As a response to this, the BORTEC study was carried out by Frontex. The study presents the structure of a surveillance system covering the southern maritime borders as well as the open sea. The proposed system is based on existing surveillance activities and their updating to form the European Surveillance System. In 2007, Frontex will continue this kind of pilot projects (see also the chapter “The way forward”).

Together the MEDSEA and BORTEC encompass the cooperative and coordinative working concept to have a common approach from EU to save lives at sea and tackle illegal immigration.

Another form of pilot projects is the identification and collection of best practices.

Border Management Conference as an example for the exchange of best practices

The creation of an open forum for discussion aiming at determination of best practices for cross border cooperation was the goal of the Border Management Cooperation Conference that took place in November 2006. The conference was organized jointly by Frontex and the Border Guard of Finland in Imatra/Finland. Representatives of EU Member States, Schengen Associated Countries, Acceding Countries, third countries neighbouring the EU and Europol took part in the conference.

A survey of existing forms of bilateral border management cooperation was carried out prior to the conference. This survey has shown a wide range of possibilities, such as various existing agreements, exchange of information or joint actions.

The conference was the first major event within the Frontex led project on Border Delegate Organisation. The term “Border Delegate Organisation” (BDO) means, in this context, bilateral border management cooperation between two countries, based on an officially organised structure. A well managed BDO allows border guard services on both sides of a border to meet regularly, exchange information, and carry out joint operations and trainings of mutual interest. Although bilateral meetings and cooperation are only a part of efficient border management, this particular tool is very effective in prevention of border related crimes. Maintaining and enhancing this important form of cooperation was the main objective for Frontex when deciding to start this project.

During the conference the discussions concentrated on four main areas: general description of the Border Delegate Organisations, their structure and functional elements; border management cooperation related to the cross-border traffic in the external land border crossing points; border management cooperation related to crime prevention and exchange of information and practical cooperation in the Border Delegate Organisation framework.

Return cooperation

In the field of return cooperation, assistance was provided to several Member States in four joint return operations. Also in this area a system was identified to manage the assistance on joint return operations. The technical solution identified and used for the time being is the ICONET, a secure web-based Information and Coordination Network for Member States' Migration Management Services.

The return unit also participated in the Frontex training unit's project for presenting common standards for joint return operations; this project will be ongoing in 2007. Furthermore, a two year project has been launched on returns, best practices, documents and removal. International experts will meet during 4 seminars and best practices will be compiled and disseminated.

Risk Analysis

In order to be able to perform its work Frontex needs to ensure that the Member States' risk analysis experts will continue to support the Frontex risk analysis unit. Therefore the so-called Frontex Risk Analysis Network (FRAN) was set up. In June and December 2006, two FRAN meetings took place and so contacts with most analytical units in Member States and Schengen Associated Countries have been established; the concept of FRAN as a forum for intelligence exchange at the FRAN meeting in December 2006 has been accepted.

Using the FRAN as one of the sources, at the end of 2006 Frontex had compiled a comprehensive risk analysis covering all the external borders. This comprehensive risk analysis will be also taken into account for the purpose of the annual distribution of resources under the External Borders Fund.

In addition, four tailored risk analyses were compiled, mainly focusing on the migration flows from the African continent in order to analyse some particular geographical areas more accurately. As an example: The Council requested Frontex - under the impression of the influx of illegal immigrants during summer 2006 - to establish a tailored risk analysis on Africa. This task was fulfilled on time.

Furthermore, a tailored risk analysis on a specific issue was initiated in 2006 and will be finalized in 2007.

Nine threat/risk analyses were established for the most important joint operations that were coordinated by Frontex. The collection of the relevant information was done in close cooperation with the Member States involved and partly with Europol.

The preparatory work for the Frontex coordinated project in the vicinity of the FIFA World Cup 2006 can be given to illustrate the close collaboration with the national authorities in order to establish a risk assessment.

The FIFA World Cup 2006 was expected to attract a big number of tourists to **Germany**. Unfortunately it could also be foreseen that such a big sport event will cause flows of criminals and illegal migrants from different parts of the world to Germany and other Member States. This fact of course put border management of the EU in a challenging situation. For the first time Frontex compiled a risk assessment jointly with the respective authority of the affected EU Member State, which was the Directorate of the German Federal Police. This report identified threats and risks concerning illegal immigration related to the above mentioned event, enabling the respective authorities at EU and national level to decide on appropriate counter measures.

Based on this risk assessment, Frontex launched a joint operation, which was aimed at contributing to the security of the participants of the World Cup 2006 by enhancing exchange of information between the Member States' authorities responsible for border management in real time and concentrating on risks at the external borders of the Member States. By means of this information exchange it was possible to examine the extent to which such big sport events might be abused by traffickers.

A total number of 12 Member States (Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain, France, Slovenia, Slovakia, Poland, Austria, Hungary, the UK and the Czech Republic) participated in this joint operation. Apart from creating a platform for information exchange, Frontex also financially supported the sending of German operational liaison officers to border crossing points of other Member States (at airports in Greece, Italy, Spain and France, as well at the land borders of Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia). Frontex has also sent its liaison officer to the Directorate of the German Federal Police to serve as a direct link. Based on the experience gathered within this operation, best practices for border management in cases of big sport events will be identified in future.

It is also worth mentioning that the cooperation of the Risk Analysis Unit with the Operational Unit of Frontex is not only aimed at establishing the analysis, which the operational planning is then based upon. The both Units cooperate also during the implementation of the projects and particularly during the evaluation phase of the project.

The Common Integrated Risk Analysis Model (CIRAM) was reviewed and will be further developed. In a first step, the CIRAM needed to be revised in order to reflect the establishment and running of Frontex. The revised CIRAM's main purpose is to produce the intelligence needed to decide on the activities following Frontex mission statement. Two different documents have been prepared, a general document and a specialist document which contains information on the conceptual model, methodological toolbox, weighing, collection plan and indicators. The weighing system will be used for the annual assessment as a general and initial method to identify the area and size of the problem.

Frontex established two restricted Law Enforcement Bulletins on the security of the borders of the European Union and distributed them to Member States' border guard authorities.

A feasibility study was done in view of setting up the Frontex Situation Centre, the findings of the missions by RAU and IT experts have been presented to Frontex Management for consideration.

The Frontex Risk Analysis Unit also contributed to the Organised Crime Threat Assessment Report 2007 as it provided Europol with a report on organised crime at the external borders of the EU. Furthermore, Frontex and Europol were requested by the European Commission to produce a joint assessment on improving cooperation on organised crime, corruption, illegal immigration and counter-terrorism between the EU, the Western Balkans and other European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) countries.

During 2006 Frontex also actively supported the ongoing Dialogue on Mediterranean Transit Migration (MTM), joined ICMPD and Europol as a partner agency in the implementation of the work of this forum. Draft joint assessment by the three agencies was presented and a follow-up project launched.

Training

One of the main tasks of Frontex is to assist Member States in training of national border guards, including the establishment of common training standards.

Again, in order to be a trustworthy operational Community coordinator also in the field of training, Frontex needed to establish networks and regular contacts.

In the field of training, the following approach was chosen: So called training coordinators were identified by each Member State and Schengen Associated Countries. Their task is to implement, under guidance of Frontex, certain training activities or to present the tools developed by Frontex to their countries. The training coordinators met three times during 2006 in order to exchange the latest news. Besides, training tools were presented to the training coordinators during the meetings.

Starting in December 2005 Frontex developed and established a “partnership academy system” based on offers of the EU Member States.

Currently there are about 136 existing training academies and schools for border guards within the EU Member States. Frontex partnership academies were established to focus on specific training tasks related to air, land, and sea borders, foreign languages, detection technology, mid level training. During 2006, the cooperation was formally established with several partnership academies, namely with partner institutions in Austria, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Slovakia and the United Kingdom.

One of the largest project in the field of training dealt with updating the Common Core Curriculum (CCC). The CCC aims at standardising the training of Border Guard officers all over Europe. Currently it consists of one general part, covering the broad field of knowledge that each Border Guard Officer in each Member State shall receive during his/her basic training. In addition, three practical modules for the specialisation after the basic training in the field of sea, air and land borders have been developed. The CCC is supposed to be implemented to the operational use starting in January 2007.

In order to respond to the requirements of the integrated border management, Frontex was also active in 2006 in developing training programmes and modules for border guard officers from third countries. This project will continue in 2007.

The development of training standards to detect falsified documents or the development of common training standards for joint return operations has also been prepared during 2006. Training activities to detect stolen cars or for common tactical flight-patrolling training for helicopter pilots were also conceived and started to be implemented in 2006.

Furthermore, working in a European environment requires Border Guards to speak foreign languages. A language training project was developed in 2006 aiming at establishing an EU wide language training in order to support RABITs, officers working at Focal Point Offices and officers seconded to the Frontex Joint Support Teams. The project will be implemented in 2007.

Besides, Frontex participated in the preparation of the European Training Day 2006 which took place from 22 - 24 November.

Research and Development

Frontex set up a network of experts in order to be able to fulfil its role as a coordinator and facilitator on Community level in the field of research and development. Two workshops were organised in 2006 with representatives of the Member States and the Schengen Associated Countries, research providers as well as EU institutions like the Joint Research Center (JRC).

In addition to setting up the network, Frontex participated in meetings with representatives of technology providers in Europe in order to follow the research and development activities in the private sector as well.

Frontex issued four bulletins in relation to the research and development activities and disseminated these bulletins to the relevant national border guard authorities. In addition, the agency participated in the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) related projects like MARISS (Maritime Picture through the integration of satellite based products) and LIMES.

Furthermore, one bulletin on border security and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) was issued. A comprehensive report on technologies available in the field of biometrics was published in close cooperation with the JRC.

One project for the identification of operational needs of Member States in term of technologies and setting up a network for exchange of information between the Member State and research providers in the field of Green borders surveillance was finalised.

External relations and cooperation with international organisations

One part of the integrated border management focuses on the relations with neighbouring, but also third countries. This aspect is also enshrined in the founding Regulation.

One of the first activities in the field of external relations was to approach the future EU Member States - Bulgaria and Romania - and to develop a possibility for cooperation before their accession. The Management Board had decided that both countries should have the observer status in the Management Board, but it was also in the common interest to involve Romanian and Bulgarian colleagues into the practical work of operational cooperation as soon as possible. To that end colleagues participated in the FRAN, in the field of training, R&D as well as in some operational activities.

With regard to the candidate countries, the working arrangements with Croatia are in the final phase and the first contact between Frontex and the Turkish Department of Foreigners, Borders and Immigration Affairs has been established.

With regard to neighbouring countries, working arrangements have been concluded with the Russian State Border Guard Service. As regards Ukraine, first discussions on future operational cooperation with the Head of State Border Guard Service of Ukraine took place in June 2006 and both parties expressed their interest and developed a draft working arrangement.

Bearing in mind that the Mediterranean Area was of particular importance during 2006, informal contacts were established with Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea-

Bissau, Guinea (Conakry) and Nigeria. The negotiations for concluding working arrangements with Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal and Libya were launched gradually in 2006.

A considerable part of the work in the field of External Relations consisted of making Frontex known to the relevant countries and the relevant authorities. Therefore, Frontex participated in several international conferences where it was presented to a broad audience of third country officials. This offered good opportunities to build up and maintain (informal) contacts with appropriate third country authorities.

With regard to other European or international organisations, Frontex was promoting its mission throughout the year.

A memorandum of cooperation with the European Police Office Europol has been negotiated during 2006 and to be signed in early 2007.

Besides, Frontex was looking into possibilities of cooperation with EU agencies and International Organisations that are linked with border management and migration issues.

Contacts for further cooperation have been established for example with OLAF (The European Anti Fraud Office), Eurojust, CEPOL (the European Police Academy), Interpol (the International Police Office), the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the ICMPD (International Centre for Migration Policy Development) or the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees).

Information/ Public Relations and transparency

The aim of public relations and transparency and communication is to offer updated and accurate information while promoting operational tasks of Frontex.

Bearing in mind the particular media attention that Frontex attracted particularly during summer 2006, we can say that thousands of requests from journalists or the public were answered during that year. Furthermore, dozens of press conferences and meetings with journalists were arranged.

The webpage was developed and is regularly updated; it can be visited under www.frontex.europa.eu.

In 2006 Frontex did not receive any requests for documents in line with Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of 30 May 2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents. In one case Frontex was consulted in a confirmatory application addressed to EU Council General Secretariat. Partial access was granted.

Administration

As already mentioned, on 3 October 2005 Frontex started its operation in Warsaw with the personnel strength of 44. By the end of 2006 the number of staff had increased to 72. This was possible thanks to an amendment to the Establishment Plan, which was launched in January and adopted by the budgetary authority in October 2006.

Having started with Seconded National Experts (SNEs) and Auxiliaries in order to become operational as soon as possible, Frontex needed to change its staff structure and to recruit staff on a more permanent basis in order to ensure the continuous work of the agency. By the end of 2006, temporary agents, contract agents and SNEs formed the main staff body of Frontex.

Following the request of the staff on establishing a Staff Committee, the Human resources sector prepared all necessary rules and procedure on the election of the Staff Committee and successfully conducted the election process. Therefore, Frontex staff has its Committee as of 15 December 2006.

In view of building up administrative procedures within Frontex, numerous of guidelines and policy documents needed to be drafted, discussed and adopted like e.g. the working rules, internal rules of procedure, or guidelines on the registration and distribution of mail.

Another very important task for the Administration was the process of selecting the (for the time being) final premises for Frontex. When the seat of Frontex was granted to Poland, it turned out that the location and security standard of the building offered by the Polish government were below the expectation of the agency. Furthermore, the lease contract offered by the hosting country was to expire at the end of 2006. Therefore, in the first half of 2006, a tender procedure was launched in order to find new premises adequate and appropriate for the agency. By the end of September 2006 the new location was identified and the contract was signed.

Simultaneously, in the area of security of premises and personnel, a concept of five-layered security system was developed to be implemented in the new premises. Tender for design and implementation of this system was launched in December 2006.

Another vital part of Administration is the Information and Communication Technology (ICT). In 2006, the main task was to ensure that Frontex uses safe, secured and fast channel to exchange operational information. This task was unfortunately influenced by the fact that Frontex was based in temporary premises. It would be against all principles of sound financial management to undertake major investments, which would not be possible to transfer to the new premises.

The ICT sector ensured also that Frontex was connected to the EU TESTA II network. A stable connection to the financial system software like SI2 and ABAC could be established, as a prerequisite for financial independence for Frontex.

In autumn, the design of a new ICT Infrastructure was realized in fibre optic technology for implementing the ICT strategic objective of having a secure, fast and high capacity channel. The design included a secure network, for processing and transmitting of classified information, isolated and composed by high availability equipments, and a fast reliable office network upgraded up to 200 user workstations.

Finance and Procurement

During 2006, Frontex was subject to a peculiar set up when it comes to the authority to implement the budget of the agency. For all expenditure related to the operational tasks like operations, risk analysis, training and research and development, Frontex was financially autonomous and the Executive Director could act independently in his role as Authorising Officer.

For all expenditure related to staff and other administrative expenses the necessary documents were prepared in Frontex, but authorised by one of the authorising officers of DG JLS in Brussels. The

mere fact of the distance between Brussels and Warsaw slowed down many processes considerably so the Commission and Frontex did their utmost to end this situation as soon as possible. As a result of these efforts, Frontex was granted financial independence from 1 October 2006.

In mid 2006 the main prerequisite was met. The Commission had finalised its preparatory work to roll out its financial software ABAC/SI2 to agencies. Frontex was the third EU agency to “go live” with this system on 1 October 2006. Before that date, Frontex was setting up its financial rules and procedures as well as the financial circuit in order to comply with the main principles of sound financial management.

In view of the budget, the development was also very dynamic. The initial Frontex budget 2006 as adopted by the Management Board amounted to € 12.4 Mio. The budgetary authority (European Parliament and Council) granted this budget to the agency. Unfortunately, too little posts had been included in the Establishment Plan (17 instead of 28) was not sufficient, so the first next task in this regard was to launch an amendment procedure to the Establishment Plan in order to be able to recruit more staff. For many reasons this amendment procedure was delayed and the budgetary authority granted the additional posts only in October 2006. However, the authority decided also to grant additional funds (€ 3.9 Mio) to Frontex. These additional funds were subsequently approved by the Management Board in November 2006.

In the meantime under the impression of the influx of illegal migrants in the Mediterranean area, in August the Management Board had another amendment of the budget amounting to € 3.4 Mio. At the end of the year Frontex had an overall budget of € 19.2 Mio at its disposal.

The distribution between operational and administrative expenditure is as follows:

	Budget	Committed	
Title 1 – Staff expenditure	4.700 000	4.188 000	89%
Title 2 – Administrative expenditure	1.400 000	488 000	35%
Title 3 – Operational activities	13.066 000	11.691 000	90%
TOTAL	19.166 000	16.367 000	85%

The late availability of the additional funds granted quite surprisingly to Frontex in late October 2006 led to spending problems. In Title 1 the delay of the revision of the establishment plan made impossible to hire the staff foreseen at an earlier time in the year. In title 2, the spending of rental related costs was much lower than expected initially as the removal to the final premises of Frontex was to take place only in early 2007. The same is valid for the under-spending of the IT related budget: important investments were only to be made in Frontex final premises. This is basically the reason why it was not possible to use more of the budget. The same is valid for Title 3, the operational units tried to use in a meaningful way as much of the funds in 2006, but the absorption capacity of the Agency had its limits.

The table below shows the distribution of the budget between the different fields of operational activities of Frontex.

TITLE 3	Budget	Committed
30 - Operations	11.089 000	10.622 000
Distributed as follows:		
Land borders	898 000	876 000
Sea borders	9.229 000	8.831 000
Air borders	315 000	293 000
Combined	380 000	358 000
Return co-operation	267 000	265 000
31 – Risk analysis	187 000	116 000
32 – Training	1.060 000	756 000
33 – Research and development	120 000	97 000
34 – Management of technical equipment	10 000	0
35 – Miscellaneous operational act.	100 000	100 000
39 – Reserve	500 000	0
TOTAL	13.066	11.691 000

And last but not least in 2006, 10 tender procedures above the threshold of €13 800 had been completed in order to cover needs for office supply, furniture, IT equipment and close to 70 smaller tender procedures e.g. the rental of conference rooms for experts' meeting, audio video equipment or interpretation services during the Management Board meetings.

The way forward

2007 will be another challenging year for Frontex, again from the point of view of the operational tasks as well as with regard to strengthening the organisation.

To start with the latter: The Management Board had adopted the budget 2007 amounting to € 22.2 Mio; the budgetary authority decided to increase this initial request made by the Management Board and adopted a budget of € 35 Mio for Frontex in 2007. Hand in hand with such an increase of the financial resources, which triggered an increased level of activities goes the increase in human resources. There is a need for substantial growth of the staff number from 70 to 130 – 140 by the end of the year 2007. Already 2006 showed that the recruitment of experts for the agency has been difficult. The core problem is that in Europe the pool of potential candidates is relatively small. Another de-motivating factor is the negative correction coefficient, which is applied on salaries; statutory staff of Frontex is paid only 76.6 % of the salary they would be paid in Brussels or Luxemburg. On the other hand, only with experienced and highly motivated staff, Frontex will be able to act as expected.

Frontex will continue working on improving its operational reaction capacities in 2007. Frontex proposal of so called FJSTs (Frontex Joint Support Teams) and the draft Regulation establishing the RABITs (Rapid Border Intervention Teams) are worth mentioning. Both these proposals foresee the establishment of a pool of experts from the Member States, trained by Frontex, which could be deployed in joint operations. This pool will be composed of experts and expert teams skilled in individual aspects of border control and with specific geographically related knowledge. Once composed, the pool will enhance the carrying out of joint operations in the sense that the composition of the teams for each operation will be easier. While RABITs will be deployed in urgent and exceptional situations, FJSTs will be made use of in regular Frontex operations based on our risk analysis. The RABITs Regulation shall be adopted during the first half of 2007 and the Regulation establishing Frontex will need to be amended to embrace this new concept.

Frontex will finalise the creation of Centralised Records of Available Technical Equipment (CRATE). These records, created by Frontex, include equipment for control and surveillance of external borders belonging to Member States, which they, on a voluntary basis and upon request from another Member State, are willing to put at the disposal of that Member State for a temporary period, as foreseen in Article 7 of Regulation 2007/2004. Having been created, the technical records will again enhance Frontex coordinated joint operations, as they will reduce the necessity of ad hoc requests for technical assets.

The results of the feasibility studies proposing a European Surveillance System of the southern maritime borders of European Union (Medsea and Bortec) will be further developed. While there are many steps to be taken by the Member States on the way to the proposed solution, Frontex is currently starting to implement one part of the structure, namely the European Patrols Network (EPN) at the southern maritime borders of the EU as a cooperation model for the open sea.

Frontex will further enhance border security by strengthening the cooperation between the Member States and, together with the Member States continues the development of regional border management initiatives in particular in the southern maritime borders.

Frontex will also further improve its analytical capacity. The links to the European liaison officers networks will be reinforced. The Situation Centre will be established and safe communication and information exchange channels with the Member States and key partners will be created. Implementation of a new Common Integrated Risk Analysis Model based on developments and experience of 2006 is another task of Frontex in order to produce appropriate intelligence materials.

Considering the fact that illegal immigration goes far beyond a single region, cooperation with the third countries plays a very important role. Based on the results achieved in 2006, Frontex operational cooperation with third countries, aligning with the European Union external relations policy, will be developed gradually and targeted at sustainable partnership. Special efforts will be paid to the intensification of cooperation with relevant authorities of the third countries in the Mediterranean area, Western Africa, Central Asia and Far East.

There is a clear need to continue active and operational cooperation with Institutions and bodies of the European Union and the Community and relevant international organisations, especially with Europol and Interpol.

In the field of Training as well as in the area of Research and Development, Frontex will continue its work and make progress according to the tasks set out in the founding Regulation.

Considering the relocation of Frontex Headquarters to its new premises in March 2007, it is important to provide appropriate administrative and IT support to the units in order to ensure the continuity of the operational activities. On the other hand, the gradual implementation of our own secure and fast network which will enable Frontex to exchange information in a fast and reliable way will be one of the top priorities.

And last but not least: Many procedures will still be under development in 2007 in order to strengthen the management capacity of Frontex, which primarily consists of the adequate economic and personnel resources and their effective use.

The members of the Management Board as of 31 December 2006

Country	Name	Position/Rank
Austria	Mr. Robert Strondl	Ministry of the Interior, Department of operational Matters / Brigadier General
Belgium	Mr. Marc Van Den Broeck	Head of Unit Federal Police - Police Chief Superintendent -
Cyprus	Mr. Savvas Theophanous	Commander of Aliens and Immigration Unit/Superintendent at the Police Headquarters
Czech Republic	Mr. Jindrich Urban	Directorate of The Alien and Border Police of The Czech Republic
Denmark	Mr. Hans-Viggo Jensen	Deputy National Commissioner Danish National Police
Estonia	Mr. Roland Peets	Director General of the Border Guard / Lieutenant Colonel
Finland	Mr. Jaakko Smolander	Chief of the Finnish Border Guard/Vice Admiral
France	Mr. Yves Jobic	Sous-directeur of the SDAITS, Central Directorate of the French Border Police
Germany	Mr. Udo Burkholder	Inspector of the German Federal Police
Greece	Mr. Dimitrios Panopoulos	Head of Aliens Division - Police Headquarters, Brigadier General
Hungary	Mr. József Béndek	Deputy Chairperson of the Frontex Management Board, National Commander of the Hungarian Border Guard
Ireland	Mr. Edward Martin McLaughlin	Detective Chief Superintendent of the National Immigration Bureau
Italy	Mr. Giovanni Pinto	Director/Immigration Service Guards
Latvia	Mr. Gunars Dabolins	General of the Latvian Border Guard
Lithuania	Gen. Saulius Stripeika	Commander in chief of the Lithuanian State Border Guard Services/ General
Luxembourg	Mr. Raoul Ueberecken	Adviser to the Minister of Justice
Malta	Mr. Andrew Seychell	Assistant Commissioner Special Branch at the Police Headquarters
Netherlands	Mr. Minze A. Beuving	Commander in chief of the Dutch Royal Marechaussee, Lieutenant General Chairman of the Management Board
Poland	Mr. Mirosław Kuśmierczak	Commander in chief of the Polish Border Guards, Brigadier General

Portugal	Mr. Manuel Jarmela Paulos	General Director of the Border and Aliens Service
Slovenia	Mr. Marko Gašperlin	Deputy Director of the Ministry of Interior
Slovakia	Mr. Michal Borgula	Head of the Office of Border and Aliens Police, Ministry of Interior
Spain	Mr. Jose Felipe Hernandez Diaz	General Commissioner of Aliens and Documentation
Sweden	Mr. Christer Ekberg	Director/Deputy Head of the National Criminal Police
UK	Mr. Tony Smith	Director of the United Kingdom Immigration Service Border Control
Iceland	Mr. Johann R. Benediktsson	Police Commissioner
Norway	Mr. Odd Berner Malme	Deputy Commissioner of the National Police Directorate
European Commission	Mr. Jonathan Faull	Director General DG Justice, Liberty and Security
European Commission	Mr. Jean-Louis De Brouwer	Director Directorate B, DG Justice, Liberty and Security
Observers		
Bulgaria	Mr. Krasimir Petrov	Director of the Border Police / General Commissioner
Romania	Mr. Nelu Pop	Head of the General Inspectorate of the Border Police
Switzerland	Mr. Juerg Noth	Commander in Chief of the Swiss Grenzwachtkorps

Annex II: List of joint operations and pilot projects started or carried out in 2006

Short description of the operation and/or pilot study	Participating Countries
Agelaus: The main objective was to establish and assist in the implementation of best practice for dealing with minors arriving at Airports in the EU, with particular reference to those unaccompanied or traveling with other than close relatives. To collect information in order to examine and analyse the problem with a view to improving detection of those passengers most likely to be at risk or involved in deception to gain entry.	CZ, DE, FR, HU, IT, LV, NL, PL, PT, SE, SI, SK, UK, as well as Europol
Agios: The operation concentrated on an intensification of passport controls in the Mediterranean Spanish Ports to identify falsified documents.	DE, ES, FR, IT, NL, PT
Amazon: The main objective was to fight against illegal immigration from South-American Countries.	DE, ES, FR, IT, NL PT, UK
FIFA 2006: The purpose of the operation was to cooperate with Germany in the preparation for the FIFA World Cup 2006, and in particular in the context of illegal immigration and associated illegal activities. The Project was mainly carried out at the major airports in Europe.	AT, CZ, DE, EL, ES, FR, HU, IT, PL, SI, SK, UK
Focal Point Offices I and II: The purpose of the project is to further enhance the operational cooperation at the external borders of the EU by continuing and further developing the system of Focal Point Offices (exchange of staff and knowledge).	AT, CZ, DE, EE, FI, FR, HU, IT, LV, PL SI, SK
Hera I and II: The general objective of the project was to assist Spain in dealing with the migration situation in the area of Canary Islands by carrying out an extensive border controls, identifying immigrants and establishing patrols on the open sea near Senegal and Mauretania, which would reduce the departure of vessels coming from African countries in Mauretanian, Senegalese and Cape Verde territorial waters.	DE, ES, FI, FR, PT, IT, NL, NO
Hydra: This Project aims on the detection of illegal immigration of specific Asian nationals.	AT, DE, ES, FI, FR, IT, NL, UK
Illegal Labourers: The goal was to control of the flows of illegal labourers at selected Border Crossing Points.	AT, CZ, DE, HU ,IT, PL, SI, SK

Nautilus: The main objective is to tackle the flow of illegal immigrants embarking from Libyan shores, to enhance knowledge/intelligence of the Maltese authorities and to increase the percentage of successfully identified illegal immigrants.	DE, EL, FR, IT, MT
Niris: The purpose of the joint operations is to combat illegal migration flows by Baltic sea ports, especially flows organised by criminal networks from specific Asian countries.	Member States and Schengen Associated Countries with as border to the Baltic Sea
Poseidon: The project attempted to measure the effectiveness of the border control on the "Balkan route" and will perform a joint operation at land and sea borders aimed at combating illegal immigration.	AT, EL, IT, PL, UK as well as Europol
Torino 2006: Border check at airports of persons traveling for the purpose of the Olympic Games in Turin 2006.	DE, ES, FR, IT, NL, UK
Zeus: The project aims at the identification and catch of seaman at airports and seaports as their visa and passports privileges are frequently and to an expected large extent? misused.	DE, ES, FI, FR, IT, MT, NL, PL, PT, LV, UK
Pilot studies	
Border Delegates: The project aimed to enhance daily cooperation of Border Guard services on both sides of external land borders by creating a documented model indicating best practices.	All Member States with external land borders
Medsea: With reference to European Council Conclusion of 15/16 December 2005, Frontex carried out a feasibility study on a "Mediterranean Coastal Patrols Network" involving the EU Member States in the Mediterranean Sea with the objective to ensure coordination on the daily border surveillance measures between Member States' responsible authorities, and to form a platform for Frontex managed operational cooperation between Mediterranean Member States, and when appropriate, with third countries.	AT, CY, DE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HU, IT, MT, NL, PT, SI, UK
Bortec: The purpose of the project was to explore the technical feasibility of establishing a surveillance system covering the whole southern maritime borders of the EU and the Mediterranean Sea. A Core Team was established out of experts of four MS (EL, FR, ES, IT), eight Member States	AT, CY, DE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HU, IT, MT, NL, PT, SI, UK

with southern maritime borders were visited; conclusions and recommendations were made in December 2006.	
Argonauts: This Project is aimed at the development of a handbook regarding integrated border management during major international sport events	All Member States and Schengen Associated Countries
Best Practices Travel documents: Establishment of joint operational approach and co-operation between the MS in the field of return of third country nationals. The project involves establishment of a working group of national experts who will share experiences and develop best practices	All Member States and Schengen Associated Countries
Daily Running Costs: The objective of the project is to create common rules and procedures for calculating daily running costs for different types of means participating in joint operations.	All Member States and Schengen Associated Countries
Green Border Surveillance: The aim of the project is to organise and coordinate a conference on the tactics and best practices related to Green Border surveillance activities	All Member States with external land borders



FRONTEX
LIBERTAS SECURITAS JUSTITIA

European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders
of the Member States of the European Union

Rondo ONZ 1, 00-124 Warsaw, Poland
Telephone +48 22 544 95 00 Fax +48 22 544 95 01
www.frontex.europa.eu