



Important dates European agency Frontex

- **2004:** Creation of the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union = Frontex – Headquarters in Warsaw
- **2005:** Frontex becomes operational
- **2006:** First joint return operation from Austria
- **2007:** First revision of Frontex's mandate, with its missions expanded through the RABIT regulation: Rapid Border Intervention Teams = rapid border interventions in the event of a 'crisis'
- **2011:** Revision of Frontex mandate: introduction of a "fundamental rights strategy"
- **2013:** Creation of EUROSUR - creation of the Frontexit inter-association campaign composed of European and African organisations, calling for the cancellation of the Frontex Regulation and the abolition of the European agency
- **2014:** Sea Border Regulation – joint operations at sea for maritime interception Frontex – Migreurop report on the Greek-Turkish border: "Frontex, the border of denial", in which our organisation refers to refoulements reported to the Fundamental Rights Officer, without any follow-up
- **End of 2014:** end of the Mare Nostrum military-humanitarian operation coordinated by Italy, replaced in **2015** by the Triton surveillance operation, coordinated by Frontex
- **2016:** Revision of Frontex's mandate, which becomes the European Border and Coast Guard Agency. It plays a central role in deportation, which has been made a priority. The agency can organise "return" operations, which are no longer the sole initiative of Member States.
- **2018:** Investigation by a media collective reveals numerous cases of violence during operations coordinated by Frontex
- **2019:** Revision of Frontex's mandate, which shifts from a support and coordination role to an operational role. Its powers in relation to deportation are increased and some of its enforcement powers are extended to bring them into line with those of national border guards.
- **October 2020:** Frontex faces numerous accusations of complacency or complicity in pushback operations in the Aegean Sea and Eastern Europe, as well as serious malfunctions and poor

governance. This leads to numerous investigations by European institutions (European Parliament, European Ombudsman, European Court of Auditors, European Anti-Fraud Office OLAF).

- **December 2020:** Summoned to explain himself, the agency's director, Leggeri, admits before the European Parliament that the agency is carrying out preventive operations at departure points, which are tantamount to pushbacks... prohibited by international law.
- **January 2021:** Fearing accusations of complicity, Frontex suspends its operations in Hungary for the first time, following the European Court of Justice's ruling against the Hungarian state on 17 December 2020 for procedural flaws in asylum and pushbacks
- **April 2022:** Leggeri resigns (he will join the French far-right party Rassemblement National in **February 2024** ahead of the European elections).
- **May 2022:** the European Parliament refuses to approve the agency's 2020 accounts, a sign of mistrust
- **October 2022:** OLAF (EU anti-fraud agency) report finally published by the media, revealing a series of breaches, cover-ups and cases of active complicity by Frontex in the violation of the rights of exiles
- **December 2022:** Human Rights Watch report "Airborne Complicity: Frontex aerial surveillance enables abuse", accusing Frontex of complicity in abuses in Libya (aerial surveillance, interception of migrants in the Mediterranean and returns to Libya)
- **March 2023:** the new Director of Frontex, Hans Leijtens, publicly commits to accountability, respect for rights and transparency within the agency.
- **February 2024:** the Commission publishes its assessment of Frontex's performance and commends its work and the strengthening of the EU's external border management in accordance with human rights
- **March 2024:** European Ombudsman reveals failure to report risks of shipwrecks in the Aegean Sea
- **September 2024:** BIRN (Balkan Investigative Reporting Network) investigation reveals that Frontex agents deployed on the border between Bulgaria and Turkey are intimidated and forced to remain silent about the refoulement and brutality suffered by migrants in order not to damage the agency's image
- **26 October 2024:** 20 years of Frontex