

Ms Márta Pardavi
Co-chair
Hungarian Helsinki Committee

Sent by e-mail only

Subject: Situation at Hungary's southern border

Our ref: CGO/LAU/20805a/2016
Please quote when replying.

Warsaw, 27 October 2016

Dear Ms Pardavi,

Thank you for your letter.

Please be assured that your allegations are taken very seriously and that Frontex is fully committed to fulfil its tasks in full respect for fundamental rights.

Frontex currently deploys officers from various EU member states/Schengen associated countries to the area, whose role is to assist the national authorities with border surveillance, border checks and information gathering for risk analysis purposes. As in every operation coordinated by Frontex, the officers deployed work under the command of the national authorities hosting the operation.

In regard with border surveillance, officers are deployed with specialised equipment such as patrol cars and surveillance cameras with the aim to support the local authorities in their respective tasks across the border with Serbia. When performing their duties, Frontex-deployed officers may participate and support the interception of irregular migrants. Other activities, like escorting the migrants to the closest transit zone, are not performed by Frontex-deployed officers.

When it comes to handling of asylum requests: if an officer deployed by Frontex encounters a person who requests asylum, he or she refers him/her to the competent national authorities.

All officers deployed by Frontex are bound by a very strict code of conduct and are compelled to respect fundamental rights. We have received no allegations of violation of fundamental rights by the officers deployed by Frontex in Hungary. Should such allegations be referred to us, we would immediately assess if they can be substantiated, and if they are so substantiated, we would immediately ask for the suspension of such member state's officer from the operation assisted by Frontex and refer him/her to the authorities of the country which employs him/her for possible disciplinary procedures.

Should there be violations of fundamental rights or international protection obligations that are of a serious nature or are likely to persist in relation to operations assisted by Frontex, a procedure allows for withdrawing the financing of a joint operation, and/or suspending or terminating, in whole or in part such activity.

This is why Frontex is in touch with the European Commission, which is - as well as the Fundamental Rights Officer of Frontex - closely monitoring the situation at the Hungarian-Serbian border.

Yours sincerely,



Fabrice Leggeri
Executive Director

CC: Chair of Frontex Management Board
European Commission - DG Migration and Home Affairs
Fundamental Rights Officer
Head of Legal Affairs Unit