EU Commission proposes reform of Frontex with expanded mandate

The European Commission proposed a new Frontex Regulation aimed at making it the EU's central operational actor for external border management and returns.

Under the new regulation, the mandate of Frontex will be reinforced by increasing Frontex's resources, gradually increasing standing corps to 30,000 officers, including a new European border and return reserve.

Also, Frontex will manage return operations through a dedicated Return Coordination Centre and allowing the Agency to support and conduct returns from third countries under specific agreements. Moreover, the new rules provides for the creation of a Quick Reaction Force for rapid deployment during border emergencies and crises and improving information exchange obligations in crisis situations through the EUROSUR network.

The proposed Frontex Regulation will also establish an Online Monitoring and Response Centre to detect developments relevant for external border management, including social media content and emerging border security risks.

In terms of digitalisation, Frontex will be able to acquire and co-own equipment to carry out procurement with the Member States, also for digital and AI tools, as well as in light of the new Return Regulation, a separate regulation to digitalise return, readmission and reintegration procedures across the EU will be established, improving data exchange and accelerating return processes across the EU.

The proposals implement commitments made under the EU's 2024-2029 political guidelines and now require approval by the European Parliament and the Council before entering into force.

Source(s)

- European Commission (27 October, 2026), [Commission proposes a stronger Frontex: more resources, a greater role on returns and effective crisis response],

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https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-proposes-stronger-frontex-more-resources-greater-role-returns-and-effective-crisis-2026-10-27_en

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