FRONTEX

EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY

EUROPOL

Working Arrangement

between

the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex)

and

the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol)

The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (hereinafter referred to as "Frontex"), represented by its Executive Director, Mr Hans Leijtens, on the one side,

and

The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as "Europol"), represented by its Acting Executive Director, Mr Jürgen Ebner, on the other side,

PREAMBLE

(1) Frontex and Europol are aware of challenges arising from cross-border crime, in particular migrant smuggling, trafficking in human beings and terrorism. Frontex and Europol are committed to coordinated, integrated, and effective cooperation in providing technical and operational assistance to the Member States[1] in the maintenance of the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice, by also ensuring full respect of the obligations of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

(2) Frontex and Europol signed in 2015 an Agreement on Operational Cooperation[2], which needs to be repealed, while the Memorandum of Understanding of 2012 on the establishment of a secure communication line between Frontex and Europol[3] (hereinafter "MoU Secure Communication Line") should continue to apply.

(3) Pursuant to Article 68(2) of Regulation (EU) on the European Border and Coast Guard[4] (hereinafter "EBCG Regulation"), cooperation between Frontex and Europol should take place under the framework of a Working Arrangement subject to a prior Commission approval. In accordance with Article 68(5) of the EBCG Regulation, any transmission of personal data to Europol, including operational personal data, is subject to specific Working Arrangements. The objective of this Working Arrangement is to fulfill this requirement.

(4) Europol and Frontex agree to cooperate closely on matters related to the EU frameworks related to migration, which are covered in the areas of cooperation listed in this arrangement.

(5) The Commission provided its prior approval to the draft Working Arrangement.[5]

(6) Pursuant to Article 23(4) of the Regulation (EU) on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol)[6] (hereinafter "Europol Regulation"), the Europol Management Board has on 23 June 2026 approved the present Working Arrangement between Frontex and Europol.

(7) The European Parliament and the Council shall be informed of this Working Arrangement by Frontex as required by Article 68(2) of the EBCG Regulation.

[1] For the purpose of this Working Arrangement, the term 'Member State' should be understood in accordance with the legal regimes applicable to Frontex and Europol respectively.
[2] Agreement on Operational Cooperation between the European Police Office ("EUROPOL") and the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union ("FRONTEX"), concluded on 4 December 2015.
[3] Memorandum of Understanding of 2012 on the establishment of a secure communication line between the European Agency for the management of the operational cooperation of the external border of the Member States of the European Union (Frontex) and the European Police Office (Europol).
[4] 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 Regulations (EU) No 1052/2013 and (EU) 2016/1624 (OJ L 295, 14.11.2019, pp. 1–131).
[5] Commission Decision of 08.07.2026 approving the working arrangement between the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (C(2026) 4621 final.
[6] Regulation (EU) 2016/794 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) and replacing and repealing Council Decisions 2009/371/JHA, 2009/934/JHA, 2009/935/JHA, 2009/936/JHA and 2009/968/JHA, as amended.

Frontex and Europol have agreed as follows:

Chapter I
General provisions

Article 1
Scope of cooperation

This Working Arrangement establishes the framework for cooperation between Frontex and Europol aiming at supporting each other in the performance of their respective mandates and in conformity with the applicable EU and international legal frameworks on fundamental rights and the protection of personal data.

Article 2
Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Working Arrangement, the following definitions apply:

   (1) "personal data" means personal data as defined in point 1 of Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725[7];

   (2) "information" means both non-personal and personal data.

2. For the purpose of this Working Arrangement the notions of "cross-border crime", "suspect", "victim", "witness" and any other relevant notion where applicable, will be assessed by Frontex and Europol in line with their respective legal regimes.

Article 3
Areas of Cooperation

1. Frontex and Europol cooperate in the following areas within their respective mandates, in accordance with the terms of this Working Arrangement and the applicable financial rules and other applicable legal requirements. This cooperation may take place whenever justified by the respective mandates of the agencies and in particular as regards:

   (1) The exchange of information, in accordance with the conditions described under Chapter II.

   (2) Information Systems for Borders and Security, in accordance with the applicable legal frameworks of each system, such as the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS), as further specified in Article 13, and the Visa Information System (VIS).

[7] Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39).

(3) Regular cooperation between the Data Protection Officers (DPOs) of Frontex and Europol to advise their respective agencies on the consistent and compliant application of data protection principles under this arrangement.

(4) Operational activities, such as under EMPACT and Joint Operations.

(5) The implementation of the Technical and Operational Strategy for European Integrated Border Management.

(6) Strategic and analytical activities, as well as activities for the enhancement and improvement of the intelligence picture.

(7) The exchange of specialist knowledge.

(8) Training activities, as well as staff exchanges.

(9) Planning and programming cycles.

(10) The development of capabilities including through research, innovation and training to counter challenges to the security of the European Union.

(11) Cooperation on occupational safety and health issues.

(12) The coordination of activities, where relevant, regarding third countries and international organisations, as well as supporting activities under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

(13) The coordination of Agencies' activities for the implementation of the relevant EU strategies and policy directions related to the scope of this arrangement.

(14) Ensuring the protection, respect and promotion of fundamental rights, including in relation to the activities envisaged under this Working Arrangement.

2. Without prejudice to Articles 8(2) and 11(1) of this Working Arrangement, the details of the implementation of the cooperation between Frontex and Europol may be set out through the establishment of additional measures addressing specific aspects of the cooperation, such as through cooperation plans.

Chapter II

Exchange of information

Article 4

General provisions of information exchange

1. Exchange of information between Frontex and Europol will take place only in accordance with and within the limits of the respective legal frameworks and applicable internal rules, and may only take place for the purpose of and in accordance with the provisions of this Working Arrangement and their respective legal frameworks.

2. Frontex and Europol will only supply information to each other which was collected, stored, transmitted or otherwise processed in accordance with their respective legal frameworks.

Article 5

Use of the information

1. Information may be used only for the purpose for which it was transmitted. Any restriction on its use, deletion or destruction, including possible access restrictions in general or specific terms, will be respected by Frontex and Europol.

2. Use of information for a different purpose than the purpose for which the information was transmitted, must be authorised by the transmitting agency.

Article 6

Assessment of the source and of the information

1. When information is supplied by Frontex or Europol, the reliability of the source of the information will be indicated as far as possible and in line with the agencies' respective legal frameworks and internal rules on the basis of the following criteria:

    a) (A): Where there is no doubt of the authenticity, trustworthiness and competence of the source, or if the information is supplied by a source who, in the past, has proved to be reliable in all instances;

    b) (B): Source from whom information received has in most instances proved to be reliable;

    c) (C): Source from whom information received has in most instances proved to be unreliable;

    d) (X): The reliability of the source cannot be assessed.

2. When information is supplied by Frontex or Europol, the accuracy of the information will be indicated as far as possible and in line with the agencies' respective legal frameworks and internal rules on the basis of the following criteria:

    a) (1): information whose accuracy is not in doubt;

    b) (2): information known personally to the source but not known personally to the official passing it on;

    c) (3): information not known personally to the source but corroborated by other information already recorded;

    d) (4): information which is not known personally to the source and cannot be corroborated.

3. If either Frontex or Europol, on the basis of information already in its possession, comes to the conclusion that the assessment of information performed as per paragraph 2 of this Article and supplied by the other agency needs correction, it will inform the other agency and attempt

to agree on an amendment to the assessment. Neither agency will change the assessment of information received without such an agreement.

4. If Frontex or Europol receives information without the assessment as set out in paragraph 1 and 2 of this Article, it will attempt as far as possible and in agreement with the transmitting agency to assess the reliability of the source or accuracy of the information on the basis of information already in its possession.

5. If no assessment is made, the information will be evaluated by the recipient as set out in paragraph 1(d) and paragraph 2(d) above.

Article 7

Exchange of personal data

1. Any exchange of personal data between Frontex and Europol will take place only in accordance with and within the limits of the respective legal frameworks and applicable internal rules.

2. When exchanging and processing personal data, Frontex and Europol will respect the data protection requirements defined within their respective legal frameworks and Regulation 2018/1725, in particular as regards purpose limitation and the accuracy of the data. Frontex and Europol will also respect the specific conditions under which the data was provided by Member States and other entities.

3. Europol may process personal data for a different purpose for which it was transmitted in accordance with its legal framework and applicable internal rules. That processing may take place only if authorised by Frontex and if compatible with the initial purpose for which the data were collected and transmitted by Frontex. In such cases, Europol shall carry out a case-by-case compatibility assessment and shall keep written records of that assessment. Where Frontex legal framework and its internal rules provide for specific conditions for further processing of personal data transmitted to Europol, Frontex shall notify Europol accordingly and provide specific requirements for further processing of personal data transmitted to Europol. Frontex will process operational personal data received from Europol in line with the applicable legal framework.

4. Frontex and Europol may indicate when transmitting personal data any restriction, its use, deletion or destruction, including possible access restrictions in general or specific terms. Where the need for such restrictions becomes apparent after the supply, the transmitting agency will inform of such restrictions accordingly.

5. Data retention and review will be performed in accordance with the respective legal frameworks of the two agencies.

Article 8

Additional requirements for the exchange of operational personal data

1. Frontex may process operational personal data pursuant to Articles 87(1)(d), 90(1) and 91(3) of the EBCG Regulation. According to Article 90(2) of the EBCG Regulation, Frontex may only

exchange operational personal data with Europol when strictly necessary and proportionate for the performance of Europol's mandate.

2. The exchange of operational personal data is performed in accordance with specific modalities, to be developed jointly by the two agencies. The specific modalities will include in particular the format and content-related elements of requests and answers, the data subject categories and the means for the transmission. Frontex and Europol will on a recurrent basis and at least once a year update or revise the specific modalities.

3. Frontex and Europol will on a recurrent basis and at least once a year discuss at technical level the specific criteria such as modus operandi and routes, on which, to the extent available and relevant, information is to be provided in Europol's requests, to facilitate Frontex' assessment of strict necessity and proportionality of the transmission of operational personal data in response to such requests. Europol will ensure that its requests reflect these criteria and include as comprehensive and precise information as possible to enable such assessments by Frontex.

Article 9

Feedback on exchanged operational personal data

Frontex and Europol agree to provide periodic written feedback, subject to Article 8, that include statistical information and a general overview of the further processing of operational personal data received from each other, enabling a proper assessment of the cooperation as foreseen under Article 16, also to inform related processes, including Frontex necessity and proportionality assessment for the exchange of operational personal data.

Article 10

Exchange of sensitive non-classified information

1. Any exchange of sensitive non-classified information under this Working Arrangement and in line with the respective legal regimes:

   (a) will be handled by Frontex in accordance with Article 9 of Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/443[8], Article 20 of Management Board Decision 45/2022[9] and the relevant Frontex implementing rules for marking and handling of sensitive non-classified information, and its successors[10].

   (b) will be handled by Europol in accordance with the Article 44 of the Europol Security Rules[11] and the relevant Europol implementing rules for marking and handling of sensitive non-classified information, and its successors.

   (c) for the electronic transmission, this information is to be encrypted with a mutually agreed solution.

[8] Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/443 of 13 March 2015 on Security in the Commission (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, pp. 41-52).
[9] Management Board Decision 45/2022 of 30 July 2022 adopting Security Rules of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex).
[10] Decision of the Executive Director No R-ED-2023-60 on the implementing rules for marking and handling sensitive non-classified information.
[11] Europol Security Rules as adopted by the Europol Management Board on 9 December 2020 on the basis of Article 67 of the Europol Regulation.

(d) if conducted via information exchange systems, will only be done via such systems that fulfil the criteria of availability, confidentiality and integrity.

2. Frontex and Europol may provide access to various applications in accordance with their respective legal frameworks and the provisions of this Working Arrangement.

3. When the information contains operational personal data, the exchange of such data should take place in accordance with Article 8.

4. Each Party should:

(a) ensure that sensitive non-classified information provided by or exchanged with the other Party under this arrangement keeps the protective marking given to it by the providing Party and that it is not downgraded without the prior written approval of the providing Party;

(b) not disclose sensitive non-classified information subject to this working arrangement to third parties, except where the providing party has given its prior consent;

(c) not allow access to sensitive non-classified information for individuals, unless they have the need-to-know;

(d) ensure that individuals with access to sensitive non-classified information subject to this working arrangement are informed of their responsibility to protect it in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations of this arrangement and their respective organisation.

Article 11

Arrangement on the exchange and protection of classified information

1. The security procedures for exchanging and protecting classified information exchanged between Frontex and Europol will be set out in a separate arrangement on the exchange and protection of classified information agreed between Frontex and Europol.

2. Exchange of classified information is conditional upon the conclusion of the arrangement on the exchange and protection of classified information.

Article 12

Cooperation in the framework of EUROSUR

1. Operational cooperation and information exchange between Frontex and Europol to improve situational awareness and reaction capability for the purposes of border management activities (including the detection, prevention and combatting of illegal migration and cross-border crime) should take place in the framework of EUROSUR[12]. This cooperation will be carried out within

[12] EBCG Regulation, Article 18.

the limits of the agencies' respective mandates, and in accordance with this Working Arrangement, with making use by Frontex of existing information, resources and systems available in the framework of EUROSUR.

2. Processing of personal data in the framework of EUROSUR, if applicable, should take place in accordance with Article 7 of the Working Arrangement.

3. The operational cooperation and the exchanges mentioned in paragraph 1, including for situational awareness, risk analysis and supporting the planning and conduct of border control operations, should take place in the context of the relevant specific situational picture(s) established by Frontex and shared with Europol in accordance with the following general rules, in accordance with Implementing Regulation on EUROSUR (EU) 2021/581:

   I. If a specific situational picture is established by Frontex, it is produced through collection, evaluation, collation, analysis, interpretation, generation, visualisation and dissemination of information, and consists of the following information layers:

      (a) an Events layer that includes events and incidents related to unauthorised border crossings and cross-border crime for the purpose of understanding migratory trends, volume and routes;

      (b) an Operational layer that contains information on operations, where relevant, including the deployment plan, the area of operations, and the position, time, status and type of assets participating as provided for in the operational plans, if applicable;

      (c) an Analysis layer that contains analysed information which is relevant, in particular to the attribution of impact levels to the external border sections, key developments and indicators, analytical reports and other relevant supporting information, such as environmental information or requests for information.

   II. The principles for cooperation in the context of specific situational picture(s) should be as follows:

      (a) The owner of the specific situational pictures is Frontex.

      (b) A specific situational picture will be composed of a subset of information of the European situational picture.

      (c) Any sharing of information by Frontex under a specific situational picture will be carried out in accordance with the principle of originator's consent. The principles for reporting should be:

         i. Originator's consent for subsequent dissemination;

         ii. Need-to-know basis;

         iii. Timely dissemination of information.

   III. The principles related to data security, including user access, are:

      (a) Following justified need-to-know;

      (b) According to the provisions for the exchange of EU Classified Information in line with this Working Arrangement;

(c) According to EUROSUR data management policy[13].

4. The exchange of information in the framework of EUROSUR between Europol and Frontex is only possible once Europol and Frontex agree on the detailed rules regarding establishing and sharing a specific situational picture. The rules will be laid down in accordance with Article 3(2) of the Working Arrangement and Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2021/581. The rules will also cover the provision of available information derived from the EUROSUR Fusion Services and the corresponding procedures.

5. The rules for the exchange of information with the other users of EUROSUR are the mechanisms to exchange information with the European situational picture and the mechanisms to ensure the originator's consent should be ensured by including specific handling instructions.

6. EUROSUR should not be used for any legal or administrative measure taken once the competent authorities have intercepted cross-border criminal activities or unauthorised crossings by persons of the external borders.

Article 13

Cooperation under ETIAS

Europol and Frontex will cooperate in the implementation of ETIAS legal framework and will assist each other, including in respect of data protection matters, in line with applicable legal frameworks.

Chapter III

Information Security

Article 14

Basic principles of information security

1. Frontex and Europol will:

(1) protect information subject to this Working Arrangement, regardless of its form, until it has reached its end of life and is securely destroyed,

(2) ensure to have a security organisation, policies and measures in place to comply with the requirements set out in this Working Arrangement, including appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect information; manage information security risks for all systems processing information exchanged under this Working Arrangement and assess these risks on a regular basis and whenever there is a significant change to any of the risk components and ensure to have a framework in place for reporting, managing and resolving security incidents and breaches. A security incident regarding SNC subject to this arrangement shall be investigated by the competent Security Authority of the Agency under whose jurisdiction it occurred, and the Security Authority of the other Agency shall be informed of the incident and the outcome of the investigation,

[13] Decision of the Executive Director No R-ED-2024-97 on EUROSUR data management policy.

(3) ensure that all persons handling information exchanged under this Working Arrangement are subject to a security screening in accordance with the legal framework of the receiving agency, are appropriately trained and familiar with the relevant security rules, policies and procedures; are made aware of their obligation to protect the information and acknowledge the obligation in writing; and ensure that access to information is limited to authorised persons who need to have access to it in order to perform their official duties,

(4) ensure that the premises where information exchanged under this Working Arrangement is processed an appropriate level of physical security in accordance with the legal framework of the receiving agency.

Chapter IV

Organizational and financial provisions

Article 15

Deployment of liaison officers, experts and representatives

1. Frontex and Europol agree to deploy liaison officer(s) in line with the Liaison Agreement.[14]

2. Frontex and Europol may deploy their experts and representatives, in particular to support the other agency with specific expertise or to support a concrete operational activity or project of joint interest. The deployments are governed by the deploying agency's mission rules, unless specified elsewhere.

3. In order to raise mutual awareness and strengthen cooperation, Frontex and Europol may agree on a staff exchange programme.

Article 16

Consultations and closer cooperation

To further cooperate and monitor the implementation of this Working Arrangement, Frontex and Europol will maintain**,** regular contacts, in particular:

(1) Hold regular High-level meetings in order to discuss issues relating to this Working Arrangement and cooperation in general.

(2) Consult each other regularly on policy issues and matters of common interest for the purpose of realising their objectives and coordinating their respective activities.

(3) Develop a periodically renewed Cooperation Plan, without prejudice to operational cooperation that requires flexibility.

[14] Liaison Agreement between the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation, concluded on 22.12.2020.

(4) Hold joint Management Board meetings, when needed and agreed, in line with their respective mandates and applicable rules.

(5) Invite representatives from the other agency to the meetings of its Management Board and other relevant fora in line with the respective mandates.

Article 17

Fundamental rights

1. Any activities implemented on the basis of this Working Arrangement will be conducted by Frontex and Europol in full compliance with the respective obligations to uphold fundamental rights and freedoms within the purview of their mandates. Both agencies will respect the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights which includes specific rights, including human dignity, the right to life, prohibition of torture and inhumane treatment, right to liberty and security, right to good administration and protection of personal data.

2. Individuals participating in activities implemented on the basis of this Working Arrangement on behalf of either agency will not discriminate against persons on any grounds including, but not limited to, sex, race, colour, or ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age, sexual orientation or gender identity.

3. Frontex and Europol have mechanisms to guarantee the respect of fundamental rights during the implementation of the operational cooperation, in accordance with EU law and their respective Regulations. The monitoring by the Fundamental Rights Officer of each agency will occur in accordance with their respective Regulations. The Fundamental Rights Officer of each agency will accordingly endeavour to support each other's monitoring efforts in ensuring compliance with fundamental rights in the activities envisaged under this working arrangement.

Article 18

Public access to documents

1. Should either Frontex or Europol, under the rules concerning public access to documents[15], receive an application to disclose a document originating from the other agency or drafted jointly, the requested agency will consult with the originating agency whether statutory exceptions to public access apply prior to any disclosure of the identified document.

2. The originating agency will be given a reasonable deadline to respond, which will not be less than five working days, to enable the other agency to comply with its own deadlines to reply to the applicant. In exceptional cases the deadline may be extended. In the absence of a reply from the originating agency within the deadline, the agency, which has received the application is to proceed in accordance with its own rules on public access to documents, taking into account the legitimate interest of the originating agency on the basis of available information.

[15] Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43).

3. Paragraphs 1 and 2 will not apply when the originating agency has already disclosed the document or if it has given its prior agreement in writing to disclose the document.

Article 19

Public Communication

1. Any publicly available material developed in connection with this Working Arrangement acknowledges the involvement of both Frontex and Europol. Where appropriate, both Frontex and Europol acknowledge the other's role in publications, press releases or any similar media.

2. Each agency may use the name and logo of the other agency only in direct connection with this Working Arrangement and subject to the latter's prior written consent.

Article 20

Expenses

Frontex and Europol will bear their own expenses which arise in the course of implementation of this Working Arrangement, unless otherwise agreed between Frontex and Europol.

Article 21

Points of contact

1. For the implementation of this Working Arrangement and without prejudice to direct operational contacts, Frontex and Europol will each designate a point of contact.

2. Where required, Frontex and Europol may decide to appoint *ad hoc* points of contact for specific cooperation activities and projects.

Article 22

Dispute resolution and termination

1. Any dispute about the interpretation or application of this Working Arrangement will be resolved by consultations between Frontex and Europol.

2. Cooperation may be terminated in writing by either agency with three months' notice at any time. In case of termination, Frontex and Europol will reach an agreement on the continued use and storage of the information exchanged. If no agreement is reached, either agency is entitled to require that the information it has communicated be destroyed or returned to the transmitting agency.

3. Without prejudice to paragraph 2, the effects of this Working Arrangement remain in force.

Chapter V
Final provisions

Article 23

Termination of the Agreement on Operational Cooperation

The Agreement on Operational Cooperation between Europol and Frontex, signed on 4 December 2015, is hereby terminated. The effects of that Agreement remain in force.

Article 24

Application

1. The Working Arrangement is applicable as of the day following its signature by both Frontex and Europol.

2. The Executive Director of Frontex and the Executive Director of Europol signed the present Working Arrangement in two original copies, in English, on the dates and in the places indicated below, whereas both copies are to be considered as the original versions of this Working Arrangement.

For the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex)	For the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol)
[SIGNED]	[SIGNED]
Hans Leijtens	Jürgen Ebner
Executive Director	Acting Executive Director