



Statement of Principles for collaboration between Europol and Frontex

Given their complementary roles, Europol and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) are committed to contributing jointly to strengthening the area of freedom, security and justice and recognise that effective collaboration between them is central to ensuring the success of the European policing response to organised crime and terrorism and to the management of the EU's external borders.

As the EU's criminal information hub, Europol collects, stores, analyses and exchanges information on serious and organised crime and terrorism to support EU Member States in the fight against crime and terrorism.

As a part of the European Border and Coast Guard, Frontex contributes to the development and implementation of the European integrated border management.

Capabilities of both Agencies, in particular Europol's expertise in information analysis and Frontex' significant operational presence on the ground, need to be combined further.

Mutual information exchange is essential for the effective cooperation of the Agencies and implementation of their respective tasks. Information collected by Frontex should enrich Europol's databases and support criminal investigations. Information from Europol should allow for better, more targeted border management.

The Executive Directors of Europol and Frontex have agreed the following principles for collaboration between their two agencies.

1. We will work together and dedicate our **complementary** capabilities and expertise to support the implementation of both agencies' mandates. Duplication of efforts will be avoided, and we will work together to identify and fill any gaps and seek for synergies.
2. We will make use of each other's **capabilities** to the largest extent possible. Our respective capabilities will be assessed to see where they can complement each other's tasks.
3. We will invest in joint **operational support**, share and, where possible, develop common procedures.
4. We will enhance the **exchange of information** between our agencies. Information exchange will be proactive and structured. We agree that, whenever possible, structured feedback will be given to the agency which provided information. Frontex will feed into Europol's criminal information hub with data gathered at the external borders, and thereby enrich information provided by and to Member States' investigators. Feedback from Europol will benefit officers at the borders in the execution of their tasks.

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5. We will work together in the development of new capabilities, including in research and in **new technologies** related to our tasks. We will cooperate on innovation and on the development of ICT capabilities, not least in the context of the interoperability between systems and European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS).
6. We will cooperate at **strategic level**, including having yearly meetings at management level to evaluate and further deepen cooperation. We will exchange Liaison Officers.
7. We will coordinate and support one another in respective activities in the external domain, including in preparation of **EU and international meetings**, and will share information on important strategic developments.
8. We will invest in providing the best **training for our staff**, where possible jointly or by sharing resources. We will put in place a staff exchange programme. We will assist one another in the recruitment of staff.

Done at The Hague on 4 October 2018,

Approved by

Catherine De Bolle
Executive Director
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