Annual Report 2025: Frontex Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights

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News

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On 2 June 2026, the Frontex Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights published its thirteenth Annual Report. The report outlines the main observations and recommendations shared by the Consultative Forum with Frontex and its Management Board throughout 2025.

The recommendations are aimed at strengthening the protection of fundamental rights in the Agency's activities, including a seminar on fundamental rights compliance under the EU Migration and Asylum Pact, guidance on the Frontex screening toolbox, and a position paper submitted to the European Commission on the revision of the European Border and Coast Guard Regulation. Further contributions concern advice on Frontex VEGA operations (activities focused on the identification of vulnerable persons) and revisions of relevant handbooks, fundamental rights advice from the Fundamental Rights Guidance Board (FRGB) of the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS), and advice on fundamental rights training.

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2025 saw the following developments:

- No activities were suspended or launched under Art. 46 of the Frontex Regulation (the Executive Director can take such measures in cases of serious or persistent fundamental rights violations);
- Despite general references to fundamental rights protection in operational plans, some plans still do not include operation-specific safeguards recommended by the Fundamental Rights Officer;
- Serious incident reports and reporting by international and civil society organisations continue to point to alleged serious fundamental rights violations, particularly in Greece, Bulgaria, and Serbia.
- The Forum expresses concern over the Management Board's refusal to reform the Frontex complaints mechanism, based on a proposal by the Fundamental Rights Officer to allow the direct referral of complaints involving Member State authorities to national complaints bodies, a proposal that remains pending following objections from some Member State representatives.
- The Forum reports limited progress in the handling of Frontex debriefing activities. While intended to gather intelligence, these activities continue to pose fundamental rights risks and require clearer safeguards and guidance.

In 2026, the Forum aims to assess the extent to which the Executive Director follows the advice of the Fundamental Rights Officer and introduces specific safeguards and thresholds, including conditioning Agency support on Member States' agreement to implement mitigating measures in operational plans.

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