



EUROPEAN COUNCIL
20-21 OCTOBER 2016

MIGRATION

EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD - from policy decision to operational implementation

THE EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD – A NEW EU AGENCY

The European Border and Coast Guard proposed by the Commission in December 2015 was conceived to meet the new challenges and political realities faced by the EU, both as regards migration and internal security. The legislation establishing the European Border and Coast Guard was agreed in a record time of nine months and entered into force on 6 October.

The European Border and Coast Guard Regulation is an important step in strengthening the control of our external borders and getting back to the Schengen principles of free travel without borders.

The rapid adoption of the legislation must now be matched by the Commission, the European Border and Coast Guard and all Member States working together to **ensure swift implementation**.



OPERATIONALISATION OF THE EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD

Key elements

The external borders will be constantly monitored with periodic risk analyses and mandatory **vulnerability assessments** to identify and address weak spots. Minimum objective criteria, as well as the vulnerability assessment plan for 2017, will have to be adopted in November 2016.

Liaison officers will be seconded to Member States to regularly monitor the external borders. They will be working closely with the relevant national authorities and able to relay the information back to the European Border and Coast Guard.

A **rapid reaction pool of border guards** and a **rapid reaction equipment pool** should be at the disposal of the European Border and Coast Guard by 7 December 2016. It will be able to deploy equipment and a standing reserve of at least 1,500 border guards from Member States. Following the decisions taken at the Management Board meeting on 18-19 October, the Member States' contributions have to be ensured.

The new mandate of the European Border and Coast Guard will allow the deployment of **European Return Intervention Teams** composed of escorts, monitors and return specialists who will work to effectively return illegally staying third country nationals. At the Management Board meeting on 23-24 November 2016, the relevant Decisions on the three return pools (forced return escorts, specialists and monitors) have to be adopted and swiftly implemented by 7 January 2017.

Finally, the **model status agreement** for the co-operation of the Agency with third countries will be adopted by the Commission soon.

TIMELINE

6 OCTOBER

The entry into force of the European Border and Coast Guard Regulation and its official launch at the Kapitan Andreevo border crossing point on the Bulgarian-Turkish border

23-24 NOVEMBER

European Border and Coast Guard's Management Board meeting: decisions to be taken on the profiles and size of return pools, the implementation plan and complementary elements of the vulnerability assessment methodology

BY DECEMBER

50 new recruitments subject to the swift approval of new budgetary resources by the European Parliament and Council

JANUARY-MARCH 2017

First vulnerability assessments to be concluded

18-19 OCTOBER

European Border and Coast Guard's Management Board meeting: decisions taken on the common methodology for vulnerability assessments, on setting the profiles for the 2 Rapid Reaction Pools, and on setting priorities for cooperation with third countries

7 DECEMBER

The provisions for two mandatory pools for rapid reaction (human resources and technical equipment) are applicable. As of this date, the European Border and Coast Guard should be able to use the new pools in case of a request for rapid border intervention

7 JANUARY 2017

The provisions for the decisions on 3 return pools (forced return escorts, specialists and monitors) are applicable