



23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2007

## **MEP lists conditions for releasing Frontex budget**

MEP Simon Busuttil (EPP-ED, MT) listed the conditions under which the Frontex budget for next - which has been doubled by the European Parliament - would be released.

Busuttil was intervening in the plenary of the European Parliament, meeting this week in Strasbourg, which was debating the first reading of the EU budget for 2008.

He said that the European Parliament's vote to double the agency's budget to almost €70 million sent a political message that spoke for itself. This increase went exclusively to the agency's operational budget to help it increase its missions on the EU's external borders.

Busuttil added, however, that Parliament had also put 30% of the agency's administrative budget in reserve in order to press the agency to become more effective.

He went on to list three conditions for the release of these funds.

The first condition was for the head of the agency to embark on a regular dialogue with Parliament in order to increase its accountability.

The second was for Frontex to present an updated workplan for next year, taking into account the new budget and the new needs.

*"Since Commission Vice-President Frattini stated that Frontex would embark on permanent missions in the Mediterranean from next year, we now expect the agency to increase its budget allocation for sea border missions from the €10m projected so far."* Dr Busuttil said.

Thirdly, Busuttil called upon Frontex to present a more realistic chart of the assets – boats, plane helicopters – that Member States have pledged to provide to the agency during its missions.

*"This year we were given a fictitious list."* Busuttil said. *"Member States had pledged as many as 21 planes, 27 helicopters and 117 boats. But we all know that, in practice, they failed shamelessly to live up to their commitments. We therefore expect a realistic and reliable list of assets as a condition for releasing these funds."* Busuttil concluded.

Full text below:

**Intervent minn Simon Busuttil MEP (EPP-ED, MT)**

**Rapport Virrankoski: 23 t'Ottubru 2007**

Grazzi sur President,

Permezz ta' dan il-bagitt, dan il-Parlament se jirdoppja – ghal kwazi €70m - il-bagitt ta' l-agenzija Frontex. Din hija mizura li titkellem wahedha dwar il-prijorita' li dan il-Parlament jaghti lil Frontex.

Iz-zieda fil-bagitt - €30m aktar - giet allokata ghal-bagitt operattiv ta' Frontex biex izzid il-missjonijiet taghha f'dawk iz-zona l-aktar milquta mill-influss ta' immigrazzjoni.



Fl-istess hin qeghdin norbtu 30% tal-bagitt amministrattiv ta' Frontex ghax irridu li l-agenzija ssir aktar effettiva f' xogholha.

Il-kundizzjonijiet biex innelhu din ir-rizerva huma tlieta:

1. Irridu li d-direttur ta' l-agenzija jibni kuntatt regolari maghna sabiex jissahhah l-iskrutinju ta' dan il-Parlament fuq Frontex;
2. Irridu informazzjoni dettaljata dwar il-pjan ta' hidma ghas-sena d-diehla. Peress li l-Kummissarju Frattini innifsu habbar li mis-sena d-diehla, il-missjoni ta' Frontex fil-Mediterran se ssir permanenti, nistnew li l-agenzija talloka ferm aktar mill-€10m li progettat s'issa ghall-missjonijiet fil-bahar.
3. Irridu skeda aggornata u realistika tal-mezzi – vapuri, ajruplani u *helicopters* – li l-Pajjizi Membri lesti jponggu ghad-dispozizzjoni ghall-missjonijiet ta' Frontex. Ma rridux skeda fittizja kif inghatajna aktar kmieni din is-sena fejn suppost li l-Pajjizi Membri intrabtu li jponggu ghad-dispozizzjoni ta' Frontex mal-21 ajruplan, 27 *helicopter* u 117-il bastiment. Biex meta gejna ghall-missjonijiet fil-prattika rajna li l-Pajjizi Membri, bla misthija ta' xejn, injoraw il-weghdi taghhom stess. Ghaldaqstant nippretendu li Frontex tahdem fuq skeda reali u li wiehed jista' jistrieħ fuqha qabel ma mneħhu din ir-rizerva.

Grazzi.

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