



Fraktion der Europäischen Volkspartei (Christdemokraten) und europäischer Demokraten im Europäischen Parlament  
Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats in the European Parliament  
Groupe du Parti Populaire Européen (Démocrates-Chrétiens) et Démocrates Européens au Parlement européen

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## MEP gives House of Lords evidence on Frontex

MEP Simon Busuttil gave evidence to a Select Committee of the House of Lords on his assessment of the Frontex agency. He said that overall his assessment was on the downbeat, but that at the same time he was 'hopeful' that the agency could become more effective than it had been so far.

Underlining the main problems which the agency faces, Dr Busuttil reiterated the fact that Frontex needs Member States to supply it with the necessary resources, and this in turn leads to a two-fold problem: Member States not being generous in the assets they pledge, and even worse, they are being less generous in honouring the pledges they made in the first place. Calling for measures to remedy this problem, Dr Busuttil said that the notion of 'compulsory solidarity' could be introduced, as has already been done in other cases, to compel Member States to honour their pledges to Frontex.

He also distinguished between rescuing persons at sea and accepting persons who have been rescued.

*"Wherever you are, you have to save lives at sea. The difficulty is who should take them after they are saved"* he said.

Dr Busuttil also took the opportunity to encourage working agreements with third-countries, and more specifically with Libya. Taking the EU's and Frontex's engagements with countries such as Mauritania and Senegal as an example, he pointed out that *"we have seen incredibly positive results here ... there has been a huge reduction in the number of immigrants arriving in the Canary Islands and therefore Spain, so clearly the co-operation with third-countries is crucial"*.

The evidence was given to Members of the House of Lords as part of an inquiry into Frontex being undertaken by the UK House of Lords European Sub-Committee. Apart from Dr Busuttil, Spanish MEP Javier Moreno Sanchez and Belgian MEP Gerard Deprez also were asked to give evidence.

A copy of Dr Busuttil's intervention can be viewed from here:

<http://www.simonbusuttil.eu/kportal/portal.asp?module=news&news=s&ID=10536>

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For further information

[www.epp-ed.org](http://www.epp-ed.org)

