

Joint Return Operation by Air to SERBIA by GERMANY on 27.04.2016

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This Joint Return Operation (JRO) is coordinated by Frontex (FX). Its purpose is to remove, from the territory of the EU Member States and Schengen Associated Countries (MS/SAC), third-country nationals who are subject of individual return decision issued by the participating countries to their country of origin.

Members assigned for duty during this operation will ensure full compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights¹ ensuring respect and dignity for all persons encountered in the course of this operation and with the Code of Conduct for JROs coordinated by Frontex². The common standardized procedures compiled in the Guide for JROs³ should be considered during this JRO.

Any incident of a sensitive or public interest nature which occurs during the course of this operation will immediately be reported, in writing, by the member concerned, for the information of Frontex  frontex.europa.eu and the organising Member State (OMS) email address (see Annex 2 - contact list).

Informing the country of return about JRO:

Both OMS and each participating Member State (PMS) are obliged to inform the relevant diplomatic representation of a country of return about the return of their citizens expelled from MS/SACs' national territories.

Flight data, Itinerary - route / schedule, Carrier, Aircraft: See Annex 1 - Operational Overview

Numbers of returnees and JRO participants: See Annex 1

Update of JRO passengers:

It is the responsibility and task of PMS escort leaders (EL) to report any changes regarding the number of returnees and staff in the Annex 1 prior to the departure from their respective home country, by sending SMS to the OMS EL and the Frontex operational manager - see contact details in Annex 2.

Contact details (OMS, PMS, Frontex): See Annex 2

Medical Attention:

1. Medical staff will be available in a waiting area at the OMS airport before the departure of the joint charter as well as on board.
2. PMS are requested to communicate any pre-existing medical conditions or requirements in timely fashion to the OMS. Please take notice of the information in the OMS offer of the flight.

¹ Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, 2007/C303/01, uploaded in FOSS

² Code of Conduct for Joint Return Operations coordinated by Frontex, Decision of the ED 2003/67 entered into force on 08.10.2013, uploaded in FOSS

³ Guide for Joint Return Operations coordinated by Frontex, XX, uploaded in FOSS

Travel and health documentation:

Each MS (OMS/PMS) is responsible for obtaining appropriate travel documents for its returnees.

Each MS is also responsible for documentation of its JRO participants; they all must have the required travel and health documentation and be made aware of entry restrictions that may potentially affect them.

Preparation of transport for returnees (at the airport):

1. Respective national escorts will search each returnee thoroughly (in accordance with the national law) before leaving the MS of first departure and in any case before boarding.
2. National EL are in charge of the coercive measures concerning their returnees. The OMS EL has the final responsibility on the joint flight. (See **Annex 1** of details of Authorised/Forbidden restraints and equipment)
3. The use of coercive measures should take appropriate account of the individual circumstances of each person such as their vulnerable condition (e.g. children if present in a JRO with their families, persons with physical or mental disabilities, etc.).
4. The escort ratio on this flight is in line with a previous risk assessment carried out by the concerned MS.
5. Escorts will be designated to concrete returnees according to the instructions given by respective national EL.
6. Valuable personal belongings like laptops, jewellery, money, etc. shall **NOT** be placed in the baggage hold of the aircraft. They should be placed in an envelope or a plastic bag and marked with a name of a returnee. These items will be handled only by a designated escort, who will hand them back over to the returnee just before the handover.
7. Baggage, which is transported in the hold of the aircraft, will be properly labelled with the name of a returnee, so that it can be properly unloaded in the country of return. Maximum weight allowed per passenger is limited: **See Annex 1**.

Operational Briefing:

Escort leaders will attend an operational briefing before departure of the joint flight, mainly to update the pax lists, seating plan and discuss boarding process as well as other important procedures during the in-flight and arrival phases. The briefing point and time will be determined by the OMS EL in due time.

A separate briefing will be conducted by the organizer with a cockpit and a cabin crew.

Boarding / In-flight procedures:

1. Boarding will take place in a secure area. Escorts and returnees will be seated as directed by the OMS escorts. Pregnant women (single or with families) and families with children will be enabled to board the aircraft and to be seated separately from other returnees.
2. Emergency exit rows will not be utilised for seating returnees.
3. Once on board, all passengers will take their seats and remain seated.
4. No member will leave his/her designated returnee unless relieved. At no time there shall be less than the designated number of escorts with any returnee as it has been assessed.
5. Any movement of a returnee from a seat will be granted according to the rules set during the operational briefing.
6. Toilets for the use by returnees will be clearly indicated. Only one escorted returnee at the time will be permitted the movement on board in order to access the toilet. The escorts are advised to jam the toilet door open and observe a returnee.
7. A security back-up team will operate in the aircraft. This team will isolate and deal with any trouble makers as well as securing the exit doors.
8. Physical force will only be used as a last resort. Restraint will be used appropriate to the level of resistance faced. All such restraints are subject to the authority of the flight captain, who is in charge of the aircraft in connection with all safety and security measures. Weapons are prohibited.
9. All relevant incidents have to be brought to the attention of the OMS EL.

Procedure at the Destination Airport:

1. When the aircraft comes to a stop and a complete standstill at the final parking position any restraint will be removed from the returnees and they will be brought to the door of the aircraft. At this time they will be handed their personal belongings, which were transported in the cabin.
2. The OMS EL will make the first contact with the representative of the country of return in order to prepare the hand-over.
3. The OMS EL and the EL of each PMS will meet relevant representatives of the country of return and hand over the travel documents and other relevant documentation, while presenting the returnees.
4. Baggage in the hold will be unloaded.
5. The OMS EL will inform PMS EL about the necessity to disembark the aircraft or not, would it be for a planned overnight stay or for administrative or technical reasons.

Operational Debriefing

A debriefing will be organised during the return flight from the country of return with all the relevant JRO participants, in particular EL, a back-up team leader, a monitor and the Frontex representative. All PMS EL and OMS EL will be respectfully asked to complete a "JRO Debriefing Form", distributed by the Frontex representative onboard, and return it before the debriefing. The feedback provided in the forms will be utilized during the debriefing.

After-operation phase:

OMS as a leading country will provide Frontex with the Final Return Operation Report in a standard form.

The OMS and all PMS escort leaders are responsible to inform each JRO participant of his/her contingent about the content of the Implementation Plan as well as the annexes and to ensure that they comply with the plan.

Annexes: Annex 1 - Operational Overview
 Annex 2 - Contact List

For Frontex
signature

Done in Warsaw,