

## **Background note on the upcoming review of the standing corps and evaluation of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 November 2019 on the European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG Regulation)**

### ***1. Process***

In accordance with Article 59 and 121 of the EBCG Regulation, the Commission will carry out a review of the standing corps as well as an evaluation of the EBCG Regulation. Both processes will result in reports being presented to the European Parliament and to the Council by the end of 2023. The scope and objectives of both processes are defined in the above-mentioned articles of the EBCG Regulation.

The Commission intends to contract an external contractor to support both the review of the standing corps and the evaluation of the EBCG Regulation. In particular, the external contractor will collect relevant quantitative and qualitative data, including through questionnaires and interviews with stakeholders.

For the preparation of the tender procedure to select the contractor, the Commission would like to seek input from Member States and Frontex on possible topics and issues, which could complement the elements already identified in the EBCG Regulation, respectively under Article 59 (1) for the review of the standing corps and Article 120 (1) for the evaluation. This will allow both processes to explore room for further development/improvement of the EBCG Regulation as regards the functioning of the European Border and Coast Guard.

### ***2. Review of the Standing Corps (Article 59 of the EBCG Regulation)***

The Commission shall present a review of the overall number and composition of the standing corps, including the size of individual Member States' contributions to the standing corps, as well as a review of the standing corps' professionalism and the training received. While performing the review the Commission shall take into account the existing and potential operational needs for the standing corps.

As part of the preparatory process, the Commission would like to receive the preliminary view of the Member States on the following questions:

- What would be the most important issue(s) from the Member States' perspective to be clarified in the framework of the review of the standing corps?
- What have been the biggest challenges in relation to the creation of the standing corps from the Member States' perspective?
- From the Member States' perspective, what is the most important benefit of the standing corps?

### ***3. Evaluation of the EBCG Regulation (Article 121 of the EBCG Regulation)***

The evaluation of the EBCG Regulation will cover the period 2019-2023 and the evaluation should assess in particular:

- (a) the results achieved by the Agency, having regard to its objectives, mandate, resources and tasks;
- (b) the impact, effectiveness and efficiency of the Agency's performance and its working practices in relation to its objectives, mandate and tasks;
- (c) inter-agency cooperation at the European level, including the implementation of European cooperation on coast guard functions;
- (d) the possible need to modify the mandate of the Agency;
- (e) the financial implications of any such modification;
- (f) the functioning of the standing corps and, as from the second evaluation, its overall number and composition;
- (g) the level of training, specialised expertise and professionalism of the standing corps.

The evaluation should also:

- include a specific analysis on the way the Charter and other relevant Union law has been complied with in the application of this Regulation;
- assess the attractiveness of the Agency as an employer for the recruitment of statutory staff, with a view to ensuring quality of the candidates and geographical balance.

As part of the preparatory process, the Commission would like to receive the preliminary views of the Member States/Agency on the following questions:

- What are the most important challenges related to the implementation of the EBCG Regulation and of the Agency's mandate encountered in the last few years?
- What are the most important issue(s) where the Member States/Agency see room for improvements?
- Are there areas within the mandate of the European Border and Coast Guard where Member States see potential for further enhancing cooperation and future developments?