

The European Border and Coast Guard Agency's (Frontex) refusal to give public access to documents concerning the 'European Border and Coast Guard Day'

Case 1062/2021/ABZ - **Opened on** 15/06/2021 - **Decision on** 07/12/2021 - **Institution concerned** European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Solution achieved) |

The complainant, a journalist, sought public access from the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) to documents concerning expenses incurred in relation to the annual 'European Border Guard Day' for the years 2015-19. Frontex granted the complainant only very limited access, redacting most of the content of the documents. In doing so, Frontex invoked an exception under the EU's rules on public access to documents, arguing that disclosure could undermine the commercial interests of the company involved in organising the events.

Having inspected the documents, the Ombudsman proposed as a solution that Frontex grant wider access to the documents in question. [Frontex replied \[Link\]](#), agreeing to the Ombudsman's [solution proposal \[Link\]](#). The Ombudsman welcomed Frontex's decision to accept her proposal for a solution. She closed the inquiry, reiterating that it is a matter of public trust for EU citizens to be able to question and hold the EU institutions to account in relation to the use of public funds.