

The President

Ms Emily O'Reilly
European Ombudsman

D 302486 15.03.2024

Dear Ms O'Reilly,

Thank you very much for your letter dated 26 February 2024 and for sharing the findings of your inquiry into how the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) complies with its fundamental rights obligations with regard to search and rescue in the context of its maritime surveillance activities. I have forwarded your letter with its follow-up recommendations to the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE), which is Parliament's competent body in these matters.

In January 2021, the LIBE Committee decided to set up the Frontex Scrutiny Working Group (FSWG) to scrutinise the functioning of the agency. The working group's mandate included monitoring 'all aspects of the functioning' of Frontex, with a particular focus on fundamental rights compliance, correct application of the EU acquis and 'transparency and accountability of the agency towards the European Parliament'. In October 2023, the LIBE committee adopted a draft resolution, marking the end of the FSWG's investigations. After the European elections of June 2024, once parliamentary committees are inaugurated for the 10th term, the competent body will take a decision on how best exercise out Parliament's oversight of the Frontex's activities.

I take these matters very seriously and, in fact, as Rapporteur on this file at the time, I was appointed President of the FSWG upon its creation, which position I handed over when I became President of the Parliament. You can rest assured that this House will continue using all the tools at its disposal to exercise its democratic oversight of Frontex and, in particular, when it comes to the protection of fundamental rights in the agency's maritime surveillance activities.

Yours sincerely,



Roberta Metsola