

Brussels, 21. 11. 2024

LT 205/24

Ms Emily O'REILLY
The European Ombudsman
Avenue du Président Robert Schuman, 1
CS 30403
67001 STRASBOURG Cedex
FRANCE



Subject: 'Conclusions of the European Ombudsman on EU search and rescue following her inquiry into how the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) complies with its fundamental rights obligations in the context of its maritime surveillance activities, in particular the Adriana shipwreck'

Madam,

In reply to your letter of 26 February 2024 addressed to Alexander De Croo, the Prime Minister of Belgium, the Presidency of the Council of the EU, I would like to thank you for bringing the findings of your inquiry to the attention of the Council.

Your conclusions on search and rescue are a valuable contribution toward ensuring that tragedies like the Adriana shipwreck do not happen again.

As you know the Council has not been seized of any legislative proposal which is related to the subject matter of your conclusions. The findings of your inquiry will, however, be part of any discussion on a future Commission proposal which would have a bearing on the topics raised in your conclusions, while noting that search and rescue remains an exclusive Member State competence.

Yours faithfully,



ÓDOR Bálint
Chairman of the
Permanent Representatives Committee