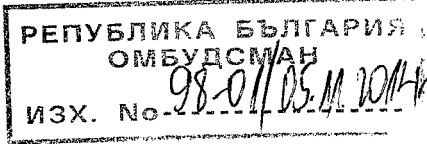




OMBUDSMAN OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA



MRS EMILY O'REILLY
EUROPEAN OMBUDSMAN

Sofia, 06 November 2014

DEAR MRS O'REILLY,

Regarding your letter on own-initiative inquiry OI/9/2014/MHZ concerning the means through which Frontex ensures respect for fundamental rights in joint return operations (JROs), I would like to inform you that the Bulgarian Ombudsman was designated as a national monitoring body on the forced return operations with amendments in Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria Act (FRBA) on 2013.

The Bulgarian Ombudsman did not participate in joint return operations, organized by Frontex so far. I would like to let you know that this activity is very important for our office but unfortunately the institution did not carry out any monitoring operations due to severe budget cut in 2014 and lack of budget funds. Three members of the staff of the Ombudsman will be trained to carry out monitoring operations and we plan to develop this activity next year.

Thank you for your initiative and I will be grateful if you could send me the results of your inquiry. It will be very useful in our future activity as a monitoring body.

Yours Sincerely,

**KONSTANTIN PENCHEV
OMBUDSMAN
OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA**



Médiateur européen

24 NOV. 2014

Date d'arrivée