

## LETTER TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ON THE EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD (FRONTEX) BUDGET DISCHARGE

18 October 2022

Dear Members of the European Parliament Committees on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, Women's Rights and Gender Equality, Budgetary Control, Budgets, Legal Affairs, and Members of the Anti-Racism and Diversity Intergroup,

Ahead of the European Parliament's vote on the budget discharge of Frontex, we are writing to call for a more thorough and transparent investigation into the agency's human rights abuses, and active role in the deaths of thousands of innocent people on the move.

We welcome the initial steps already taken by the EU institutions with regards to Frontex's lawfulness. The EU's Anti-Fraud Office's (OLAF) investigative report, the European Ombudsman's inquiry, several EU parliamentary hearings and the European Parliament LIBE committee's Frontex Scrutiny Working Group, as well as reports from the media and NGOs, have led to the resignation of Frontex Executive Director Fabrice Leggeri and the freezing of a portion of Frontex budget.

However, Frontex continues to undertake unlawful operations with impunity, and sanctions illegal pushback operations in collaboration with EU Member States and third countries.

The discovery of 92 injured and naked irregular migrants on the external borders of the EU this week cannot be extricated from Frontex's role in creating a deadly Fortress Europe.

Over the past few months, we have also seen the flagrant double-standard at the EU's borders regarding the treatment of racialised refugees from Ukraine which has laid bare both Frontex's unreformable nature, and the embedded structural racism in the EU's migration policies.

**Violence, repression, and discrimination at the EU borders must end.**

We are therefore calling for:

- A rejection of the budget discharge today
- A full reassessment of EU migration policy within the frame of structural racism, leading to:
  - A policy shift away from criminalisation of people on the move towards protection

- A framework of legal protection against discrimination for migrants
- The reallocation of Frontex budget and resources into safe and legal pathways for people on the move
- An urgent review of the size of Frontex border guard force ([10 000 by 2027](#))

We ask you to actively uphold the commitments made for an anti-racist Union, and the principles of human dignity, freedom, equality and solidarity by rejecting the budget discharge.

Sincerely,

Equinox Initiative for Racial Justice