

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003548/25
to the Commission
Bartłomiej Sienkiewicz (PPE), Kamila Gasiuk-Pihowicz (PPE)
(15 September 2025)**

Subject: Safety of Frontex officers and the EU's strategic autonomy in the context of call for tenders Frontex/2024/OP/0058

Officers of the permanent EU land, sea and air border forces must be equipped in a way that ensures their safety and operational efficiency. Given the strategic importance of equipping these particular teams, it is especially key to avoid the risk of depending on third countries, and it should also be ensured that production takes place within the EU.

It is worth remembering that Frontex has previously run into problems with the monitoring and supervision of its procedures — its 2020 budget discharge was not granted due to irregularities and difficulties in accessing operational information.

In this context, call for tenders Frontex/2024/OP/0058 and the exceptionally low value of the successful tender may raise concerns that the production of uniforms has been outsourced to outside the EU, which could carry the strategic risk of depending on third countries.

1. Does the Commission have information on where these uniforms will be manufactured?
2. Will the Commission request that Frontex's Management Board carefully consider the contract to ensure that the issue of officer safety has been considered?
3. How will the Commission ensure that the manufacturing of uniforms — a core element of equipment — will remain in the EU to avoid strategic dependence on actors from third countries?

Submitted: 15.9.2025

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(26 November 2025)**

The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) is a decentralised EU agency with its own Financial Regulation adopted by the Agency's Management Board ⁽¹⁾. Frontex Financial Regulation stipulates that, as far as procurement is concerned, Title VII and Annex I of the EU Financial Regulation ⁽²⁾ are applicable. Procurement decisions are taken by Frontex under its applicable rules. The Commission does not directly award or manage the Agency's contracts.

The Agency's Management Board exercises oversight of Frontex's procurement plans, ensuring that procured equipment meets the relevant technical specifications and EU standards that guarantee the safety of the Agency's standing corps officers. However, the Management Board does not directly award or manage the Agency's procurement contracts.

Under the current EU Financial Regulation, Frontex (as other EU Agencies and bodies) must respect equal treatment and non-discrimination. Accordingly, contracting authorities cannot require a specific place of production or the EU origin of supplies unless this is duly justified on grounds such as the protection of security and public order, and set out transparently in the procurement documents.

⁽¹⁾ Management Board Decision 19/2019 of 23 July 2019 adopting the Frontex Financial Regulation.

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast).