

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001620/26
to the Commission
Özlem Demirel (The Left)
(21 April 2026)**

Subject: Frontex participation in Finnish pushback exercise

In March 2026, the Finnish Border Guard carried out a four-day training exercise at three closed border crossings with Russia, an exercise in which the European Gendarmerie Force (EUROGENDFOR) was involved for the first time. The aim was to test a new border protection law that empowers authorities to push back asylum seekers and use force under certain conditions. Frontex also participated and, according to its own statements, undertook tasks such as mobile surveillance, weapons and document checks, as well as the securing of transports.

1. What were the objectives and purposes of the exercise from Frontex's point of view, and how does the Commission assess its compatibility with the fundamental right to asylum and the principle of non-refoulement?
2. What specific tasks did Frontex take on during the exercise, and how do the Commission and Frontex explain the participation in an exercise explicitly aimed at trialling pushbacks and the use of force?
3. Which Member States and other actors were involved in the exercise, and what were the respective percentage shares accounted for by the Frontex contingent, the forces deployed by EUROGENDFOR, and the Finnish and Estonian officials?

Submitted: 21.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the European Commission
(3 June 2026)**

The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) is a decentralised Agency of the Union. Accordingly, the Agency operates with a certain degree of independence from the Commission in carrying out its activities, including training courses, provided that these remain consistent with its mandate and legal framework.

As an Agency of the Union, Frontex must act in compliance with EU law, including the fundamental rights enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU.

As the questions two and three fall under the responsibility of Frontex, the Commission has asked the Agency to provide a response to the questions raised by the Honourable Member.

The Commission will send the Agency's reply to the Honourable Member as soon as possible. The Commission is not aware of the specificities of the training mentioned or of Frontex's involvement in it.
