

The Frontex Files



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How everything started

Drones monitor south coast of England for migrant boats

🕒 5 December 2019



PA MEDIA

Hundreds of migrants have been intercepted by Border Force in the Channel this year

Team



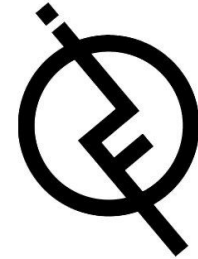
Daniela Sala



Bart von Laffert



Ann Esswein



Disinfo Collective

FOI-ing Frontex

- Frontex only met with registered lobbyists who are registered in the EU transparency register and publish annually an overview of meetings on its website; no meetings were held in 2017.

Frontex Consolidated annual activity report 2018

Q EN FRONTEX

Research and Innovation

Select section: Announcements

1/12 →

**I-DAYS
ON AIRBORNE
MARITIME
SURVEILLANCE
SOLUTIONS**
Webex: 26-27 January 2021
FRONTEX I-DAYS

Frontex Thematic Industry Days: Airborne Maritime Surveillance Solutions
2020-12-18

Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, and national authorities are increasingly relying on airborne surveillance to better monitor what is happening at Europe's maritime borders. To ensure that experts from Frontex and

Frontex invitations to Industry Days

Dear European Border and Coast Guard Agency,

Under the right of access to documents in the EU treaties, as developed in Regulation 1049/2001,

For the following meetings, events, workshops:

- Workshop on advance traveller risk analysis, held on 21 March 2017;
 - Showcasing of Automated Document Inspection Systems (DIS) for first-line use, held on 18 May 2017;
 - Meeting on Biometrics on the move, held on 23 May 2017;
 - Day on Maritime Analysis Tools, held on 7 September 2017;
- as well as for any other industry meeting, day, event, workshop or gathering of any kind, hosted by Frontex in 2017 and not listed above,

I am requesting:

1. All agendas of these meetings/workshops/events/gatherings/...;
2. A list of all attendees, including the name of the company, group, or organisation of any kind each attendee represents;
3. All presentations by Frontex shown during the course of these meetings/workshops/events/gatherings/...;
4. All documents prepared by Frontex for the purpose of these meetings and given out or distributed among the attendees (such as – but not limited to – handouts, leaflets, briefings or background notes);
5. All presentations by any other speaker – be it industry representative, academic, Member State representative, or attendee of any kind – shown during the course of these meetings/workshops/events/gatherings/...;
6. All reports, summaries, minutes, notes, or record-keeping of any kind produced by Frontex as an outcome of these meetings/workshops/events/gatherings/...

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any doubts or question in regards to this request.

Request under Regulation 1049/2001

Request: Meetings with industry in 2017
<https://fragenstaat.de/a/194216>

I am requesting:

1. All **agendas** of these meetings/workshops/events/gatherings/...;
2. A list of all **attendees** including the name of the company, group, or organisation of any kind each attendee represents;
3. All **presentations** by Frontex shown during the course of these meetings/workshops/events/gatherings/...;
4. All documents prepared by Frontex for the purpose of these meetings and given out or distributed among the attendees (such as – but not limited to – handouts, leaflets, briefings or **background** notes);
5. All **presentations** by any other speaker – be it industry representative, academic, Member State representative, or attendee of any kind – shown during the course of these meetings/workshops/events/gatherings/...;
6. All reports, summaries **minutes** notes, or record-keeping of any kind produced by Frontex as an outcome of these meetings/workshops/events/gatherings/...

The Frontex obstacle course

1. Delay

“Before we are able to process your application, we have to inform you that **it is very wide** and pertains to a significant number of documents. We would thus invite you to develop, similar to previous cases, **a fair solution** in order to reconcile your needs with those of good administration.”

What to do

Break down the request (per meeting, per type of document...)

Prioritise according to what you'd like to receive first.



2. Ask for money

“We would like to inform you that the possible **redaction required** from Frontex under Article 4 of Regulation (EC) 1049/2001 and the hard copies that are going to be produced in its course, oblige us to **charge 20 cent per page** plus postage.”



What to do

Refuse to give them money.

3. Delay (more)

10-day silence



What to do

Insist.

4. Delay (more, again)

“In order to **determine the scope** and find a commonly acceptable solution, would you be available on Thursday, 6 February to receive our **call** between 1530 and 1600?”



What to do

Talk to them.

Request first filed: 9 January 2020
Frontex starts processing the request: 6 February 2020

5. Refuse

“some limited parts of the documents fall under exceptions under [Article 4](#) of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 and therefore had to be expunged”



What to do

Appeal the refusal.

6. Forbid

“Kindly be reminded that the **copyright** of the document/s rests with Frontex and making this/these work/s, **available** to third parties in this or another form without prior authorisation of Frontex **is prohibited**.”



What to do

Ignore the claim.

Request first filed: 9 January 2020

First batch of documents received: 19 March 2020

Last batch of documents received: still ongoing 🕒

The report



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Lobbying the EU Finance Climate Health Food & agriculture Trade Other battles



Lobbying Fortress Europe

The making of a border-industrial complex

05.02.2021 | Myriam Douo, Luisa Izuzquiza, Margarida Silva

The massive expansion of the budget, personnel, and powers of the EU's border agency Frontex has also seen increasingly privileged access for industry. This perpetuates a vision of border control based on more and more firearms and biometric surveillance that has major human rights implications.

Executive Summary

The massive expansion of EU border agency Frontex in recent years has not been matched by a corresponding increase in transparency, accountability, nor scrutiny.

Access to document requests reveal a disturbing trend by which arms, surveillance, and biometrics companies are being given an outsized role - unmatched by other voices - in

The document database



[Spenden](#) [Luisa](#) ▼

The Frontex Files

Read the report in full: "Lobbying Fortress Europe: the making of a border-industrial complex"

The media publication

DIE FRONTEx FILES

Vera Deleja-Hotko, Ann Esswein, Luisa Izuzquiza, Bartholomäus von Laffert, Daniela Sala und Phevos Simeonidis (Disinfaux Collective) für das ZDF Magazin Royale



The homepage

Wo kann ich mir alle Original-Dokumente ansehen?

Hier:

Home

No pagination

| Name ↑ | Size | Time |
|----------------------|--------|-------------------|
| Meetings 2017 | Folder | 21/02/25 10:23:36 |
| Meetings 2018 | Folder | 21/02/25 10:23:37 |
| Meetings 2019 | Folder | 21/02/25 10:23:36 |
| Unspecified Meetings | Folder | 21/02/25 10:23:35 |

Selected: 0 of 4

How it started

We reached out to Frontex with questions regarding the discrepancy between what it told the European Parliament and its approach to handling lobbying. We were told by Frontex's press office that:

'Frontex does not meet with lobbyists. Given our mandate (contribute to the implementation of integrated border management at the external borders of the EU) and the fact that the agency does not play a role in the EU decision-/law-making process, Frontex does not attract the interest of lobbyists.'

How its going

Frontex and lobbying: Executive Director Decision on the Transparency Register

Frontex Secrecy and transparency EU

06 May 2021



Frontex is to set up a lobbying transparency register to record details of meetings with representatives from the private sector, in accordance with the 2019 Regulation governing the border agency. Statewatch has obtained the Decision of Executive Director establishing the register.

**What else to do with the
Frontex Files?**

Questions?



Thank you!



Get in touch with us:

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Resources and useful links

The Frontex Files (TV piece, ZDF - subtitles in EN and FR): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2uk0w8SvUMw>

Lobbying Fortress Europe: The making of a border-industrial complex (report, Corporate Europe Observatory): <https://corporateeurope.org/en/lobbying-fortress-europe>

Document database (all lobby meetings 2017-2019, FragDenStaat): <https://fragdenstaat.de/dokumente/sammlung/49-fx-files/>

Mapping of all meetings and attendees, private and public actors: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1vpQLE3PNS-yAoMWw11xFZ6BSMmB3q3VmaYOX9wnVGlg/edit?usp=sharing>

FOI requests (and correspondence with Frontex):

- For the 2018 and 2019 meetings: https://www.asktheeu.org/en/request/meetings_with_industry_during_20
- For the 2017 meetings: <https://fragdenstaat.de/anfrage/meetings-with-industry-in-2017/>

Frontex invitations to industry:

<https://frontex.europa.eu/future-of-border-control/research-and-innovation/announcements/>