

## ANNEX 5 – Final SI-Handler Report Template



Warsaw, 31/07/2025

## FINAL SIR REPORT

Log Number: 10222/2025

SI-Handler: Fundamental Rights Office

**Key Points**

**Incident reported:** According to a report published by two NGOs, three underage migrants died of hypothermia on 27/12/2024 approximately 20 km from the Bulgarian-Turkish border after they had crossed illegally from Türkiye. In the night of 27/12/2024, the NGOs rescue teams received several alerts from the migrants including their respective positions at different times. The alerts on immediate risk of death were effectively shared with the Bulgarian emergency services by the NGOs. Allegedly, the Bulgarian authorities not only did not react to the alerts, but also actively obstructed the NGOs' rescue attempts which resulted in a more than 24-hour delay in reaching the reported positions where the migrants' bodies were found.

**Party allegedly involved in the incident:** Border Police of the host Member State Bulgaria (participants in JO Bulgaria Land 2024).

**Possible violations of fundamental rights enquired:**

- Right to life (Article 2 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union) - VERIFIED;
- Rights of the child (Article 24 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union) - VERIFIED.

**Conclusion and Impact:** The Fundamental Rights Office considers it established that the Bulgarian authorities were under obligation to assist and rescue migrants, as they had sufficient information to reasonably infer there was a life-threatening situation, they were aware of the migrants' location, and while having the capacity to act, failed to implement adequate measures in time that resulted in loss of lives. Considering that the deceased migrants were underage, the Bulgarian authorities also failed to fulfil specific child protection obligations.

Based on the credible and detailed account of the NGOs, including timely alerts and precise locations shared with the Bulgarian authorities, the Fundamental Rights Office considers that the NGOs rescue efforts were genuine and likely obstructed by the Bulgarian authorities. As a result, these actions may amount to a violation of the right to life, as states must take appropriate steps to safeguard life and must not prevent others from doing so.

The Fundamental Rights Office is deeply concerned about the repeated allegations of the Bulgarian authorities not responding properly to distress calls.

**Bulgaria: Final Serious Incident Report #2/2025.**

**Description of the event - Timeline**

On 25/01/2025, two NGOs (No Name Kitchen and Collettivo Rotte Balcaniche) published a report<sup>1</sup> alleging that the Bulgarian authorities not only did not react to the SOS alerts, but also actively obstructed the NGOs' search and rescue attempts that resulted in three deaths. The report notes the following:

- On 27/12/2024, between 01:00-07:00 local time [Note. All times referenced in the present SIR are in local time, UTC+2. Note Ends.], the NGOs rescue teams received alerts regarding three migrants (all underage of Egyptian nationality):
  - The first alert was received at around 01:00 including a location (Position 1 at 42° 15'43"N 27° 19'56"E) and a video of "a semi-conscious boy lying down in a lot of snow". On 28/12/2024,

<sup>1</sup> No Name Kitchen & Collettivo Rotte Balcaniche: Frozen Lives: an investigation into how Bulgarian authorities put the lives of people on the move at risk of death, January 2025, [https://bloodyborders.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/NNK\\_Frozen-Lives\\_25-01-20\\_2.pdf](https://bloodyborders.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/NNK_Frozen-Lives_25-01-20_2.pdf);

at 02:43, a body was found 22 metres from this position by an NGOs rescue team that reached the area on foot.

- The second alert was received at 04:18 including a location (Position 2 at 42°17'00"N 27°19'36"E), and a video that shows another unconscious minor lying in the snow. On 29/12/2024, at 16:40, the NGO rescue team found a body eight metres from this position.
  - The third alert was received at 06:45 including a location (Position 3 at 42°17'54"N 27°19'37"E) and a message mentioning "three people, one of whom unconscious for half an hour". On 28/12/2024, at 15:15, a rescue team found a body in this location.
  - All reported positions are on Bulgarian territory, approximately 20 km from the Bulgarian-Turkish border.
- According to available information, the migrants had illegally crossed the border from Türkiye.
  - The NGOs rescue teams contacted the Bulgarian emergency services six times on 27/12/2024 (at 01:35, 02:15, 02:17, 02:21, 03:25, and 05:58) requesting immediate assistance and highlighting the urgent risk of death while providing updates on the migrants' condition and their respective positions.
  - The bodies found were identified and confirmed to be the same migrants who had requested immediate assistance on 27/12/2024, and two of them were shown in videos received by the NGOs as part of the initial alerts.
  - Reportedly, hypothermia was determined as the cause of death.

The NGOs claims that the Bulgarian authorities not only did not react to the alerts, but also actively obstructed the process of rescue, that resulted in a delay of reaching the reported locations (25 hours after the initial report for Position 1; 60 hours after the initial report for Position 2; 32 hours after the initial report for Position 3). The NGOs reported about the following rescue attempts on 27/12/2024:

- After receiving the first alert, the NGOs rescue team left to provided location without delay.
- At 02:02, while attempting to reach Position 1, the NGOs rescue team was stopped for half an hour by two Bulgarian Border Police vehicles approximately 6 km from Position 1. The Bulgarian officers from the first vehicle took the documents of the NGOs rescue team and escorted them towards Burgas thereby preventing them from reaching Position 1, while the second vehicle of the Bulgarian Border Police was reported to proceed towards Position 1.
- At 03:04 and 05:12, while still trying to reach Position 1, the same rescue team was stopped twice by the Bulgarian Border Police and forced to drive away from the location.
- At 05:19, as a second NGOs rescue team attempted to reach Position 1 and/or Position 2 on foot (as their car broke down), they were stopped (6 km from Position 1 and 4 km from Position 2) and turned back by the Bulgarian Border Police officers in black uniforms with a Land Rover Defender (license plate No. CB7503KE), allegedly wearing balaclavas. The rescue team was then ordered to walk 10 km to the town of Debelt while being followed by two Border Police vehicles. The rescue team reportedly reached Debelt at 09:00.
- At 06:15, the first rescue team was stopped again (2 km from Position 3 and 4 km from Position 2) and questioned by the Bulgarian Border Police and forced to leave the area.

The Fundamental Rights Office launched Serious Incident Report (SIR) 10222/2025 on 31/01/2025 to clarify the circumstances of the failed rescue of migrants and the allegation that the Bulgarian Border Police actively obstructed these rescue efforts.

## Information collected - Contributors/Entities consulted - Follow-up

The Fundamental Rights Office

Internal decision making process

### INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES

On 21/03/2025, as part of its enquiry, the Fundamental Rights Office requested information from the Bulgarian authorities about the case under scrutiny.

On 28/04/2025, the Bulgarian authorities informed that alerts received in relation to the case under scrutiny were promptly addressed by their officers. However, the alerts received on 27/12/2024 "contained false or misleading

information - the bodies of deceased migrants found on 28/12/2024 and 29/12/2024 were located in different places from the coordinates provided in the alert messages on 27/12/2024". In particular:

- On 27/12/2024, between 02:00-07:35, [REDACTED] received a total of three distress signals via the European Emergency Number 112 (EEN 112), submitted by members of the "Mission Wings" Foundation [Note. "Mission Wings" Foundation was coordinating the search and rescue with other two NGOs. Note Ends.]. "The precise coordinates provided with the alerts were determined to be in different wooded regions inside [REDACTED] responsibility zone. [REDACTED] patrol teams were immediately sent to the specified coordinates to conduct operational and investigative measures to verify the alerts, but no distressed persons or dead bodies were discovered there".
  - At 02:00, the [REDACTED] received an alert from EEN 112 "about a person who was cold and about to freeze at GPS coordinates 42° 15'43"N 027° 19'56"E" [Note. The same as Position 1. Note Ends.]
  - At 07:35, the [REDACTED] received an alert from EEN 112 regarding "two persons in distress: one person about 16-17 years old of Arab origin at GPS coordinates [REDACTED] [Note. Approx. 4 km from Position 3. Note Ends.]; the second person in distress at GPS coordinates 42° 17'01"N 027° 19'36"E [Note. The same as Position 2. Note Ends.]".
- On 28/12/2024, at 03:25, the [REDACTED] received a call via EEN 112 about "a frozen boy of about 15-16 years old on a dirt road at GPS coordinates [REDACTED] [Note. 20 meters from Position 1. Note Ends.]. "The alert message provided exact coordinates, different from those submitted on 27/12/2024. The [REDACTED] officers were immediately dispatched to respond to the signal."
- "After conducting a search, the body of a man, matching the profile of an illegal migrant, was found. Five individuals from the "Mission Wings" Foundation were also found at the site. The deceased person's body was covered with snow, which made it impossible to determine the approximate age or if there were any signs of violence. After an autopsy was performed by a forensic doctor from the University Hospital of Burgas, the approximate age of the deceased was determined to be around 20 years, with no signs of violence."
- On 28/12/2024, at 15:30, [REDACTED] received a signal from the EEN 112 about a corpse at GPS coordinates 42° 17'54"N 027° 19'37"E" [Note. The same as Position 3. Note Ends.]. "Border Police officers were dispatched to the location, and after conducting search operations, they discovered the body of a man, matching the profile of an illegal migrant. Two individuals from the "Mission Wings" Foundation were also found at the site. After an autopsy was performed by a forensic doctor, the approximate age of the deceased was determined to be around 20-23 years, with no signs of violence."
- "On 29/12/2024, at 16:55, the [REDACTED] received a signal via EEN 112 about a distressed individual matching the profile of an illegal migrant, located near the "Rakov Dol" area [Note. Reference to Position 2, no coordinates provided. Note Ends.]. Border Police officers were dispatched to the site, and after conducting search operations, they discovered the body of a man, matching the profile of an illegal migrant. Two individuals from the "Mission Wings" Foundation were also found at the location. After an autopsy was performed by a forensic doctor, the approximate age of the deceased was determined to be between 20-30 years. The death occurred more than 72 hours prior."
- "Frontex officers were not sought for assistance, as they were engaged in other tasks related to border surveillance".

The Bulgarian authorities further noted that there have been multiple instances where members of the mentioned NGOs deliberately hindered officers' activities, as well as cases where the NGOs' actions resulted in criminal proceedings. "[REDACTED] considers that the submission of inaccurate or false information by representatives of the "Mission Wings" Foundation not only hinders the work of our officers, but also intentionally and deliberately obstructs our officers from carrying out their duties conscientiously and to the fullest extent."

Regarding the allegation that the Bulgarian authorities actively obstructed the NGO's rescue efforts, the Bulgarian authorities replied that "[REDACTED] did not receive a signal about the presence of NGO rescue teams in the area of responsibility". In addition:

- While performing its tasks, a [REDACTED] patrol one time checked two cars with EU citizens.
- "After the check the persons were released and they were not prevented or forced to leave the area, to sit on the road, and their personal belongings and clothes were not thrown away and checked".

- "The Land Rover Defender vehicle with registration number CB7503KE is owned by the Border Police, and it is used by [REDACTED] in border surveillance and on the specific date no officers wearing black uniforms and balaclavas were traveling in it."
- "No joint actions were carried out with the EU citizens checked in the area, since they did not declare that they had data on persons in distress and that they were staying in the area for the purpose of searching for them."
- [REDACTED] does not have video or photographic documentation regarding mentioned encounter with EU citizens.

Operational area

Operational area

The Bulgarian authorities did not comment on whether any investigation was planned or ongoing into the allegations in this SIR.

### **INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE NGO**

As part of its enquiry, the Fundamental Rights Office reached out to the "Mission Wings" Foundation to clarify the details of their rescue attempts and confirm the identities of the bodies found. The following information was provided to the Office:

- The "Mission Wings" Foundation confirmed the identity of the bodies found and shared information about the assistance and legal support provided to the families during the identification process [Note. The identification documents were made available to the Office. Note Ends.]:
  - The body found on 28/12/2024, at 02:43, 22 metres from Position 1 was identified as that of AS (initials) born on [REDACTED] 2008 in [REDACTED] Egypt. Personal data x2
  - The body found on 28/12/2024, at 15:15, in Position 3 was identified as that of AE (initials) born on [REDACTED] 2007 in [REDACTED] Egypt. Personal data x2
  - The body found on 29/12/2024, at 16:40, eight metres from Position 2 was identified as that of SE (initials) born on [REDACTED] 2009 in [REDACTED] Egypt. Personal data x2
- In two cases family representatives arrived in Bulgaria for identification procedures, and in one case a DNA test had to be conducted [Note. Because of the poor state of the body. Note Ends.].
- The NGO confirmed that the videos sent together with the alerts and coordinates of Position 1 and Position 2 depict the same persons whose bodies were found later in the same locations.
- The persons whose bodies were found were not wearing suitable clothing for the weather conditions.
- The "Mission Wings" Foundation and NGOs rescue teams have recorded the calls to the EEN 112 which could be made available together with a call log upon request.
- When being stopped by the Border Police, the rescue teams explained the purpose of their presence and showed the officers the videos they had received.

The NGO provided two videos (16 and 12 seconds) portraying the following:

- The video sent together with the first alert and coordinates at Position 1 depicts a person lying on his back in the snow, with his left arm held up and (possibly) drool under his nose and around the mouth. While a clear moaning is audible, there are no other visible signs suggesting that the person is alive and/or conscious. The person recording the video leaves the scene and walks away but is not visible in the footage.
- The second video sent together with the coordinates at Position 2 has no sound and shows another person lying on his right-side head down in the snow. A hand is visible attempting to turn the body towards the camera, but the person is unresponsive.

### **OPEN-SOURCE REPORTS**

The Head of the Forensic Medicine Department at the University Hospital of Burgas, who was responsible for the autopsy of three Egyptian nationals, together with the Minister of Interior Affairs provided the following details to the media (unofficial translation from Bulgarian - the original language of the article) on 06/01/2025:

- "One of the three migrants, who were initially reported by the "Mission Wings" Foundation, died of a pulmonary embolism, the others from frostbite. This has occurred 36 hours before they were discovered on 29/12/2024."

The Fundamental Rights Office checked the weather conditions in the area at the time of the incident and found that the temperature was 2-4°C, with strong winds from 26 to 33 km/h, according to the online weather archive on TimeAndDate<sup>2</sup>.

#### **INFORMATION CONVEYED BY FRONTEX OPERATIONAL STAFF AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS MONITORS**

The Fundamental Rights Office consulted operational reporting and finds no Frontex assets to be involved in the reported incident that happened in the operational area of JO Bulgaria Land 2024. Frontex had not received alerts nor any other information about the incident at the time.

During their monitoring missions in May/June 2023 and December 2023, Fundamental Rights Monitors made observations with regards to “the reports about cases of migrants who lost their life in mountainous areas on the Bulgarian-Turkish border as well as about distress calls that weren’t responded properly by the Bulgarian authorities”. The Fundamental Rights Monitors reported on the following:

- A local NGO representative interviewed by the Fundamental Rights Monitors informed that migrants’ family members are contacting them about their relatives being missing or having disappeared in the mountainous area on the Bulgarian border with Türkiye. In addition, the NGO representative informed that the signals of missing persons they receive are being forwarded to the police, however, no follow-up actions are taken to locate them. The Fundamental Rights Monitors were also informed that several bodies of migrants found in this area are kept in the morgue in Burgas.
- Independent stakeholders informed that they received about 70 distress calls between August and December 2023, the alerts were shared with the Border Police or the Migration Directorate, but the authorities are usually not willing to conduct search activities if they learn that the missing person is a migrant (usually they reply that they have no information about this person or that he/she was found dead).

#### **Assessment**

The Fundamental Rights Office analysed the measures taken by the Bulgarian authorities in accordance with their international law obligations and provides the following assessment regarding:

- Bulgarian authorities’ obligations and failure to act in time;
- Bulgarian authorities’ obstruction of search and rescue.

#### **BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES’ OBLIGATIONS AND RESCUE PERFORMANCE**

The Fundamental Rights Office considers it established that the Bulgarian authorities were aware of migrants in need of immediate assistance in the territory of Bulgaria (approximately 20 kilometres from the Turkish border) and as such it was their responsibility:

- to take appropriate steps to safeguard lives once aware of danger, and
- to provide immediate assistance to those in distress and
- to act with particular urgency and care when underage persons are at risk.

The Fundamental Rights Office finds that Bulgarian authorities had sufficient information to reasonably infer there was a life-threatening situation, and while having the capacity to act, failed to implement adequate measures in time that resulted in loss of lives and as such violated Article 2 (right to life) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. This assessment is based on the following:

- In contrast to the statement of the Bulgarian authorities that alerts received on 27/12/2024 “contained false or misleading information” and that “the bodies were found in different locations” the Office notes that the Bulgarian authorities were made aware of the distress cases, including the precise location in at least two of them:
  - Regarding the alert with Position 1, the Bulgarian authorities confirmed receiving the same coordinates and confirmed the location where the body was eventually found with a deviation of approximately 20 metres.
  - Regarding the alert with Position 2, the body was found eight metres from reported location and the Bulgarian authorities confirmed receiving the alert with said position.

<sup>2</sup> Past weather database:  
<https://www.timeanddate.com/weather/@725621/historic?month=12&year=2024>



- Regarding the alert with Position 3, the Bulgarian authorities informed receiving the location that was approximately 4 km from Position 3, however they confirmed that the body was eventually found in Position 3 as provided with the initial alert sent to the NGOs.
  - The Office notes that all positions reported in the alerts, including those where the bodies were eventually found, are within a 2 km radius. Two of these reported positions are on or close to a forest road and accessible by a 4x4 vehicle: Position 1 is less than one kilometre from the road, Position 2, where the body was found on the road is 2 km from Position 1, while Position 3 is an additional 2 km further - here the body was found next to the road.
  - The different positions provided with the alerts suggest that the migrants were on the move, leaving each other behind one by one and sending the respective alerts.
  - The videos sent together with the alerts and coordinates of Position 1 and Position 2 depict the same persons whose bodies were found later in the same locations.
- The NGOs and “Mission Wings” Foundation reported contacting the Bulgarian emergency services six times on 27/12/2024, and the Bulgarian authorities confirmed receiving at least three distress signals relating to imminent risk of death with precise coordinates (two of them accessible by a 4x4 vehicle).
  - The Bulgarian authorities also confirmed being in contact with NGOs rescue teams “but no joint actions were carried out with them, since they did not declare that they had data on persons in distress and that they were staying in the area for the purpose of searching for them”, in contrast to the NGOs statement that rescue teams not only explained the purpose of their presence there, but also showed the videos they had received with the alerts.
  - The Office further considers that the Bulgarian authorities had the necessary capacity to act, based on the type of deployed assets in the area (the NGOs rescue teams reported at least seven different Land Rovers 2-6 kilometres from Positions 1-3, while the Bulgarian authorities informed that on 27/12/2024, between 02:00-07:00, “teams were sent right away to the specified coordinates”).
  - As forensic and/or autopsy reports were not made available to the Fundamental Rights Office, it cannot claim with certainty but finds it possible that at the time the Bulgarian authorities were first alerted on 27/12/2024, at 01:35, the migrants were still alive. This assessment is based on the following:
    - The body in Position 1 was found 25 hours after the initial alert, the one in Position 3 was found 32 hours after the initial alert while the last one, in Position 2, was found 60 hours after the initial alert.
    - The doctor responsible for the autopsy together with the Minister of Interior Affairs stated in an interview that 36 hours had passed from the time of death until the discovery of the bodies (without referring to the concrete case). While the Bulgarian authorities responding to the Office’s enquiry stated on a contrary - as regards the body found in Position 2 on 29/12/2024 that the death occurred more than 72 hours prior (meaning before 16:00 on 26/12/2024 and before any of the alerts). Given the statement of the doctor, positions and timeframes mentioned above, the Office excludes such a possibility.
    - While it remains unclear who and when recorded the videos that were sent together with the alerts (no metadata could be retrieved), the Office finds it likely these were reported in real time and show a plausible timeline of the migrants being still on the move, leaving each other behind, one by one: 3 hours passed between the alerts about Position 1 and Position 2 with the distance being 3 km (including 800 metres offroad) between the two; another 2.5 hours passed between the alerts about Position 2 and Position 3 with a 2.2 km distance between the two.
    - The video received with the first alert and Position 1 indicates signs of the migrant being alive (arm held up, loud moaning).
  - Frequent allegations of the Bulgarian authorities not responding properly to distress calls, also reported in SIR 11760/2022 and identified by the Fundamental Rights Monitors during their missions in 2023 which were also corroborated by local NGOs and media reports.

The Fundamental Rights Office considers it established that the Bulgarian authorities were aware of the migrants’ position at various times but failed to reach them and provide assistance in time. In light of the migrants’ confirmed identity and the fact that all of them were underaged (15, 16 and 17 years old), the Office notes that failure to rescue children from dangerous weather conditions (or exposure to cold for long hours) while being aware of their

whereabouts amounts to gross negligence and failure to fulfil specific child protection obligations as provisioned in Article 24 (rights of the child) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

#### **BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES' OBSTRUCTION OF RESCUE**

Allegations of obstructing NGOs rescue efforts were denied by the Bulgarian authorities and could not be independently corroborated by the Fundamental Rights Office. The Office nonetheless finds it likely that the Bulgarian authorities actively interfered with the search and rescue efforts of the NGO. This assessment is based on the following:

- Credible and detailed report of the NGOs and "Mission Wings" Foundation, including recorded interactions with the Bulgarian authorities in specific locations (in the vicinity of the Positions 1-3) and real time exchange of information among themselves. The Bulgarian authorities confirmed being in contact with the NGOs rescue team on at least one occasion in the morning hours of 27/12/2024, while the NGO reported five obstructed attempts to reach the locations of the migrants in distress.
- Given that the NGO alerted the emergency services six times (three of them were confirmed by the Bulgarian authorities) and provided precise positions, the Office finds it highly unlikely that the NGO rescue teams were not upfront about the reason and purpose of their presence in the area, as claimed by the Bulgarian authorities, stating that "they did not declare that they had data on persons in distress and that they were staying in the area for the purpose of searching for them".
- The weather conditions in the area at the time (2-4°C with 26-33 km/h wind), the young age of the migrants, their light outwear, and visible distress as shown in the videos all pointed to an acute urgency where life-saving intervention was necessary. NGO rescue teams without did head out to reported Position 1 without delay, but managed to reach it only after 25 hours, suggesting their efforts were obstructed.

Given the above and in contrast to the Bulgarian authorities' statement about "submission of inaccurate or false information by representatives of the "Mission Wings" Foundation not only hinders the work of our officers, but also intentionally and deliberately obstructs our officers from carrying out their duties conscientiously and to the fullest extent" [Note. Also, referring to this case. Note Ends.], the Fundamental Rights Office finds the NGOs rescue teams and the "Mission Wings" Foundation rescue attempts were genuine and likely obstructed by the Bulgarian authorities. As a result, these actions may amount to a violation of Article 2 (right to life) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union as states must not only refrain from taking life but also take appropriate steps to safeguard life - and must not prevent others from doing so<sup>3</sup>.

#### **Final conclusion - Proposals - Lessons learned**

The Fundamental Rights Office considers it established that the Bulgarian authorities were under obligation to assist and rescue migrants, as they had sufficient information to reasonably infer there was a life-threatening situation, they were aware of the migrants' location, and while having the capacity to act, failed to implement adequate measures in time that resulted in loss of lives. Considering that the deceased migrants were underage, the Bulgarian authorities also failed to fulfil specific child protection obligations.

Based on the credible and detailed account of the NGO, including timely alerts and precise locations shared with the Bulgarian authorities, the Fundamental Rights Office considers that the NGO rescue efforts were genuine and likely obstructed by the Bulgarian authorities. As a result, these actions may amount to a violation of the right to life, as states must take appropriate steps to safeguard life and must not prevent others from doing so.

The Fundamental Rights Office is deeply concerned about repeated allegations of Bulgarian authorities not responding properly to distress calls.

#### **The Fundamental Rights Office further recommends for the Bulgarian authorities:**

1. To ensure Frontex Standing Corps members' effective integration in the activities of the joint operation as a basis for their consistent contribution to border management compliant with fundamental rights.
2. To strengthen the detection capacity and efforts, including by deployment of thermo-vision assets to detect migrants in covered locations, and by requesting Frontex support in search and rescue operations.
3. To ensure effective coordination and exchange of information among stakeholders operating in the area in the context of search and rescue.

<sup>3</sup> European Court of Human Rights, L.C.B. v. United Kingdom, no. 23413/94, 1998; Osman v. United Kingdom, no. 23452/94, 1998; Budayeva and Others v. Russia, no. 15339/02, 2008.

4. To initiate robust and diligent investigations into all allegations of failed search and rescue operations.

**The Fundamental Rights Office further recommends for Frontex:**

1. To increase its presence and be more actively involved in activities including border surveillance, search and rescue operations, and detection and apprehension of migrants on land in the Frontex operational areas where migratory pressure is high and where alleged violations of fundamental rights are reported.