

Managing the European External Borders Between War and Peace

Navigating Through a Dynamic Era of Pandemics, Hybrid Threats, Uneven Globalisation and Digital Opportunities

Graduation Ceremony - Conference - Exhibition
13 - 14 December 2022
Naval Academy
Almada (Lisbon), Portugal

A World in Turmoil

It was twenty years ago this year, when in June 2002 the Council met in Seville, marking the conclusion of the Spanish Presidency. Prior to the meeting the European Parliament had adopted a resolution, which welcomed the Commission's proposal to set up a European Corps of Border Guards to assist National Border Guards, which could be used for the surveillance of particularly sensitive parts of present and future external EU borders. The Commission had issued a Communication titled "Towards the Integrated Management of Our External Borders of the Member States of the European Union" detailing a number of measures, which were subsequently reflected in the presidency conclusions, where the Council, Commission and Member States were requested to launch Joint Operations, Pilot Projects and Immigration Liaison Officers Networks by the end of that year. Preparation of Common Risk Analysis Model, launching a Commission study on burden-sharing between Member States and the Union as well as establishing a Core Curriculum for education and training was also requested.

Fast forward to 2022, we now have a European Border and Coast Guard comprising Member States and the Agency, together implementing European Integrated Border Management, working with partners, ensuring that the external borders are safe, secure and well-functioning, allowing for the smooth and lawful transit of persons and goods. The trained and equipped European Border and Coast Guard Standing Corps - the first ever European uniformed service - with contributions from both Member States and the Agency, is since January 2021 deployed alongside the colleagues in National Authorities, sharing the responsibility, of helping to foster the prosperity of our European area of freedom, security and justice through interaction

with the rest of the world while safeguarding it against external challenges and threats.

We have come a long way, delivering what was in the minds of the visionaries at the Seville Council two decades ago. In the meantime, the world has gradually taken a turn for the worse. In 2002 the Cold War was history but in 2022 the divide and polarisation have returned, completely changing the international security landscape. With war raging in our neighbouring Ukraine, Europe finds itself increasingly facing hybrid and cyber threats. Migration, energy and food are being instrumentalised and critical infrastructure targeted as means of influencing a compromise on our European values, where life, liberty and humanity are corner stones - the DNA of what is European.

At the same time, over the many years, we have grown used to globalisation, benefitting from trade and travel to and from all corners of the world, both near and far. Our increasingly digitalised globe, reduces lead times, simplifies our everyday lives and allows for retaining a sense of proximity with our neighbours and partners around the world in spite of physical distance, a phenomenon that manifested itself not least during the pandemic lockdowns. While our digital planet offers many opportunities, like a pandemic it knows no borders and thus introduces new vulnerabilities, especially for those code savvy, who are on the quest to disrupt the European society.

The external borders of Europe have been thrown in at the deep end of international tension that is neither war, nor peace, stuck in between. Does this emerging new paradigm require us to rethink the strategic design of the Integrated Management System for the external borders to make it fit for both contemporary and emerging challenges, threats and opportunities as they evolve with time

Putting a Vision into Action - Strategic and Operational Dialogue

Organised over two days, the first day will gather dignitaries to engage in discussion on the vision of the European external borders as a result of the ongoing paradigm change.

Coming from the Cold War in the early nineties - pulling down the iron curtain and uniting Europe under the Treaties - through tackling the cross-border campaigns of terrorist and criminal networks in the noughties, only to be subject to increased aggression by state actors in the tens and twenties, we find ourselves in something that reminds us of the Cold War. Although, it has a different twist.

- What is the role of the external borders in positioning European Strategic Autonomy and leveraging Strategic Partnerships to improve the international security environment, promote European values and foster mutual growth and prosperity?
- Is there a need to further safeguard European interests in by introducing new types of borders in frontiers as for example space, climate engineering and digitalisation?
- The whole being greater than the sum of its parts - what is needed to enable the European Border and Coast Guard to work more closely together with authorities across the full scope of internal and external policies, at the external borders and in Third Countries to maximise the impact of European Integrated Border Management today and in the future?
- What is it like at the borders today? How does hybridisation manifest itself?

The first day will culminate in the graduation ceremony of the eight batch of the Agency's own Standing Corps Staff.

The second day will see a deep dive into Education and Training. Acknowledging the twenty-year success of the Common Core Curriculum, delivering a standardised operational knowledge, skills and competence base among, plenary and workshop sessions will look forward and explore:

- How can we strengthen the European Border and Coast Guard Education and Training capability?
- What is needed to enable the staff of the European Border and Coast Guard to adapt to the era of digitalisation - travel, trade and identity - and hybridisation of the aggression at the external borders?
- What do the latest trends in science and technology offer in terms of potential opportunities to improve the implementation of Education and Training activities?

The event will also see the Agency exhibit its growing fleet of own equipment, systems and services.

Programme

Monday 12 December 2022 - Pre-Conference Reception

GMT / +1 CET

18:00 - 20:00 Arrival Icebreaker at Hotel TRYP Lisboa Caparica Mar Hotel

Tuesday 13 December 2022 - Conference Day 1 - European Integrated Border Management

GMT / +1 CET

07:30 - 08:00 Transport from Hotel TRYP Lisboa Caparica Mar Hotel to Naval Academy

08:00 - 08:30 Arrival, Registration and Refreshments

08:30 - 09:00 Opening Remarks

Speaker

Ms Aija Kalnaja - Executive Director a.i., Frontex

Admiral Henrique Eduardo Passaláqua de Gouveia e Melo - Chief of the Naval Staff of the Armed Forces and Head of the Maritime Authority, Portugal

09:00 - 09:30 Keynote Speeches Part 1

Speakers

Mr Marco Capitão Ferreira - Secretary of State for National Defence, Portugal

Mr Notis Mitarachi - Minister of Migration and Asylum, Greece (remote)

09:30 - 09:45 Recorded Message Part 1

Speaker

Ms Ylva Johansson - European Commissioner for Home Affairs

09:45 - 10:00 Keynote Speeches Part 2

Speaker

Mr Massimo Bontempi - Prefect (ret), Central Directorate of Immigration and Border Police, Ministry of the Interior, and former Member of Management Board, Italy

10:00 - 10:15 Recorded Message Part 2

Speaker

Dr Jiří Šedivý - Chief Executive, European Defence Agency

10:15 - 10:45 Break with Refreshments

10:45 - 12:00 Panel 1: Future Take - The EU Frontiers in a Digital Age

Panel

Mr Tomáš Zdechovský - Member of European Parliament and Vice Chair Committee for Budgetary Control (remote)

Prof Mats Leijon - Department of Electrical Engineering, Division of Electricity, Uppsala University (remote)

Mr Siim Alatalu - Chief Executive Officer, CR14, Estonia

Dr Joanna Goodey - Head of Justice, Digital and Migration Unit, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights Agency (remote)

Dr Jan Joel Andersson - Senior Analyst, European Union Institute for Security Studies (remote)

Moderators

Dr Stefano Failla - Director Situational Awareness and Monitoring Division a.i., Frontex

Mr Dinesh Rempling - Head of Capability Programming Office, Frontex

Synopsis

Looking forward, a decade and beyond, where advances in science and technology are likely to take us even further, not least into the digital age with greater computing power, embedded artificial intelligence and virtual user interfaces speeding-up communication, decision-making and financial transactions, while materials, manufacturing, homes and work have grown smarter, powered by cleaner and greener energy and food, and automation, robotics and unmanned systems relieve us from the mundane, keeping us out of harm's way in what may be a much more volatile world:

- What is the role of the external borders in positioning European Strategic Autonomy in a competitive world where state and non-state actors all have an interest in reaping the fruit but not necessarily willing to share?
- How can we leverage Strategic Partnerships across the globe to improve the international security environment, drawing on European values, while fostering mutual growth and prosperity with the wider world?
- Is there a need to further safeguard European interests by introduce new types of border concepts for frontiers such as space, climate engineering and digitalisation?

12:00 - 13:15 Panel 2: Reality Bite - The Volatile Situation at the External Borders

Panel

Gen Rustamas Liubajevs - Commander, State Border Guard Service, Ministry of the Interior, and Member of the Frontex Management Board, Lithuania

Ms Sofia Moreira de Sousa - Head of Representation in Portugal, European Commission

Ms Nina Gregori - Executive Director, European Union Asylum Agency (remote)

Dr Susanne Steele - Executive Director, European Fisheries Control Agency

Ms Maja Markovčić Kostelac - Executive Director, European Maritime Safety Agency

Moderators

Dr Stefano Failla - Director Situational Awareness and Monitoring Division a.i., Frontex

Mr Dinesh Rempling - Head of Capability Programming Office, Frontex

Synopsis

Looking back a decade, 2011 saw the resurfacing of an offshoot of al Qaeda, the Islamic State, sustaining its presence until 2019. February 2014 saw Crimea being annexed by Russia. March 2015 witnessed the kick-off of the migration crisis in Europe resulting from the Syrian conflict. On 24 January 2020 the first COVID case was confirmed in Europe. Come late summer of 2021, the eastern external land borders were soaked in hybrid attacks from Belarus. On the 24 February 2022 Russia unsuccessfully attempted to invade Ukraine, with counter offensives continuing to regain what Russia initially managed to capture. Could we not see any of these things happening? Our collective imagination can think-up both the worst-case and the best-case. What it comes down to is how likely we think the worst-case is. If we for example believe everybody in the world subscribe to the same values as Europeans, the assessment of likelihood will remain low, especially in the context of the value of life, liberty and freedom of expression.

- The whole being greater than the sum of its parts - what is needed to enable the European Border and Coast Guard to work more closely together, with authorities across the full scope of internal and external policies, at the external borders and in Third Countries to enable us to stay ahead of the game, drawing on shared information, allowing us to maximise the impact of European Integrated Border Management today and in the future?
- What is it like at the borders today? How does hybridisation manifest itself in practice? What are the modus operandi of those who smuggle?

13:15 - 13:30 Inspire Session 1: Space - The Next Frontier?

Speaker

Mr Patrick Chatard-Moulin - Deputy Head of Space Division, European External Action Service (remote)

13:30 - 13:35 Launch of the Common Core Curriculum 2022 - Basic
13:35 - 13:45 Closing Remarks

Speaker

Ms Aija Kalnaja - Executive Director a.i., Frontex

13:45 - 15:00 Lunch
15:00 - 16:00 Graduation Ceremony
16:00 - 17:00 Diploma Award
16:15 - 16:45 Transport from Naval Academy to Hotel TRYP Lisboa Caparica Mar Hotel
19:00 - 19:45 Transport from Hotel TRYP Lisboa Caparica Mar Hotel to Dinner Venue
20:00 - 23:00 Official Dinner
23:00 - 23:45 Transport from Dinner Venue to Hotel TRYP Lisboa Caparica Mar Hotel

Wednesday 14 December 2022 - Strengthening the European Border and Coast Guard Capability

GMT / +1 CET

08:30 - 09:00 Transport from Hotel TRYP Lisboa Caparica Mar Hotel to Naval Academy
09:00 - 09:15 Arrival and Refreshments
09:15 - 09:30 Opening Remarks

Speaker

Mr Uku Särekanno - Deputy Executive Director for Information Management and Processes, Frontex

09:30 - 09:45 Inspire Session 2: Of Warriors and Worriers in Violent Times

Speaker

Mr Martin Holzer - Senior Consular and Foreign Affairs Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Germany / Doctoral Student in Criminal Justice, University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom

09:45 - 11:00 Panel 3: Emerging Skills Needs in the Hybrid and Digital Landscape

Panel

Mr Filipe Domingues - Co-Founder, Centre for Cooperation in Cyberspace
Mr Seppo Turkia - Consultant, Border and Coast Guard Education and Training
Dr Sari Lindblom - Senior Expert, Performance Guidance and Planning, Lappeenranta-Lahti University of Technology
Mr Grigorios Tsioukas - Deputy Fundamental Rights Officer, Frontex
Mr Stylianos Kourkoulis - Senior Capability Manager, Frontex
Ms Monica Gariup - Senior Advisor on International Cooperation, Frontex

Moderator

Mr Paolo Majoli - Head of Training Unit a.i., Frontex
Mr Dinesh Rempling - Head of Capability Programming Office, Frontex

11:00 - 11:15 Granting Membership in the Partnership Academies Network to the Portuguese School of Maritime Authority System

Participants

Ms Aija Kalnaja - Executive Director a.i., Frontex
Capt Samuel Calado Carvalho de Oliveira - Director, School of the Maritime Authority, Portugal
Mr Paolo Majoli - Head of Training Unit a.i., Frontex

11:15 - 11:45 Break with Refreshments

11:45 - 12:15 Inspire Session 3: Training and Identity for the Future

Speakers

Ms Iwona Frankowska - Senior Capability Officer, Frontex

Ms Andrea Rechtsteiner - Director, Strategic Procurement, A & R Textilproduktion GmbH

12:15 - 13:30 Panel 4: Science, Technology and Innovation for Education and Training

Panel

Mr Marek Link - Adviser, Ministry of the Interior, EU and Foreign Relations Department, Estonia

Dr Utimia Madaleno - Senior Consultant, Euroopportunities

Commander António Mourinha - Director of the Maritime Operational Experimentation Center, Navy, Armed Forces, Portugal

Mr Javier Quesada - Director Capacity Building Division a.i. / Head of Research and Innovation Unit, Frontex

Mr Lukasz Sokolowski - Head of Engineering and Acquisition Unit / Head of Logistics Unit a.i., Frontex

Moderators

Mr Paolo Majoli - Head of Training Unit a.i., Frontex

Mr Dinesh Rempling - Head of Capability Programming Office, Frontex

13:30 - 13:45 Closing Remarks

Speaker

Ms Cristina Jorge - Director Operational Response Division, Frontex

13:45 - 15:00 Lunch

14:00 - 15:00 Visit to the Naval Academy Museum (optional)

Naval Academy Museum

Officially created in 1946, the origins of the Naval Academy Museum dates back to the late nineteenth century, when it was housed in its former facilities in Lisbon, where it held a significant collection of items of historical value to the Academy and to the Portuguese Navy.

Currently, the Naval Academy Museum is housed in a former library building, which holds its exhibition centre. However, some items belonging to the museum are also displayed all over the Naval Academy.

Being a place of remembrance, the Naval Academy Museum evokes, through its collection, the past and evolution of the academic, military and seamanship training of Portuguese Navy officers at Escola Naval as well as a memory of the legacy for the current generations of naval officers.