

## MINUTES 43<sup>rd</sup> MB MEETING

<b>Event:</b>	<b>43<sup>rd</sup> Management Board Meeting</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>29 September 2023</b>
<b>Place:</b>	<b>Virtual</b>
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Final</b>
<b>Participants:</b>	
Members:	Rick Lawson (NL, Vice-Chairperson), Els Keytsman (BE, alternate) Irena Ilieva (BG), Astrid Kjeldgaard-Pedersen (DK), Anne Peters (DE), Paloma Tupay (EE, alternate), Miltiadis Sarigiannidis (EL), Yolanda Gamarra (ES), Agnes Martinel (FR), Snježana Bagić (HR), Oreste Pollicino (IT), Katerina Kallitsioni (CY), Artūrs Kučš (LV), Lyra Jakulevičienė (LT), Anamarija Tunjic (LU, alternate), Balázs Gerencsér (HU, alternate), Giannino Caruana Demajo (MT), Katharina Pabel (AT), Paulo Saragoça da Matta (PT) Csaba Ferenc Asztalos (RO), Katarina Vatovec (SI, alternate), Katarína Batková (SK), Tuomas Ojanen (FI), Per Bergling (SE), Philippe Boillat (CoE)
Representatives COM:	Ingrid Bellander Todino (DG JUST)
Director	Michael O’Flaherty
Operational services:	Andreas Accardo (Head of Institutional Cooperation and Networks Unit), Joanna Goodey (Head of Justice, Digital and Migration Unit), Siobhan McInerney-Lankford (Head of Equality, Roma & Social Rights Unit), Constantinos Manolopoulos (Head of Corporate Services Unit), Nicole Romain (Head of Communication and Events Unit), Adrianna Bochenek (Director’s Office), Francesco Saverio Liguori (Corporate Services), Luisa Lopez (Corporate Services), Andreas Miltos (Accountant), Elena Balzarini (Institutional Cooperation and Networks Unit), Alessia Salvaneschi (Institutional Cooperation and Networks Unit), Anastasija Naumova (Institutional Cooperation and Networks Unit), Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos (FRA Scientific Advisor)
Excused:	Veronika Bílková (CZ), Jim Clarken (IE), Marek Szydło (PL),
Alternates ( <i>when Members are present</i> )/Observers/Guests/:	Paul Hafellner (DG JUST), Michal Davala (SK), Lawrence Early (CoE) Evis Alimehmeti (OBS AL) Daniele-Nicola Cangemi (OBS CoE), John Morjin (OBS SC)

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## 1 Opening remarks and approval of the draft agenda, possible conflicts of interest

### Main Conclusions:

- 1.1 The Vice-Chairperson, Rick Lawson, opened the 43<sup>rd</sup> MB meeting and informed that the Chairperson, Jim Clarken, was absent for personal reasons.
- 1.2 He welcomed all participants and in particular the new Chairperson of the FRA Scientific Committee, John Morijn, who introduced himself to the Board.
- 1.3 The Vice-Chairperson gave an update on the status of the membership, including pending nominations following resignations and end of terms of office.
- 1.4 The Vice-Chairperson asked the MB members about any conflict of interest pertaining to the agenda of the meeting. No conflict of interest was reported.
- 1.5 He informed about a change in the order of the agenda (item 2 - in camera session to be taken as last item) and a presentation on the FRA Communications Strategy under item 13 (AoB). No comments were received on the draft agenda which was approved with the modifications presented.

### Decision:

- A. The agenda of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Management Board meeting was approved as modified.

## 2 Approval of the draft minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> MB meeting

### Main Conclusions:

- 2.1 The draft minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Management Board meeting were approved.

### Decision:

- B. The minutes of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Management Board meeting were approved.

## 3 a) Report from the 70<sup>th</sup> Executive Board Meeting and on the Chairperson's activities b) Report of the Director on the work of FRA in the last period

### Main Conclusions:

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- 3.1 The Vice-Chairperson reported on the 70<sup>th</sup> Executive Board (EB) virtual meeting that took place in the morning, dedicated to the preparation of the MB meeting.
- 3.2 The Director presented the Board with the Agency's past activities from 1 May 2023 to 1 September 2023.
- 3.3 He presented key outputs and progress of work in the operational units, drawing on the Director's Report. He reported from his latest mission to Italy to observe and discuss fundamental rights issues arising from the current migration situation. He also highlighted FRA's work on displaced people/children from Ukraine and future developments in the possible relations with Ukraine. He informed about the good cooperation with the different key FRA's stakeholders and preparations for the 2024 Fundamental Rights Forum.
- 3.4 The Director's report was welcomed, and the MB expressed appreciation for the Agency's work.

## 4 Update and discussion on EU-Fundamental Rights Policy developments (COM)

### Main Conclusions:

- 4.1 The Commission representative updated on recent EU policy developments related to fundamental rights. Amongst others, she informed about President Von der Leyen's emphasis on risks in the digital world and enlargement in her State of the Union speech. Acknowledging the Agency's contribution to the work of the Commission, she reported on recent or upcoming initiatives related to the Charter, civic space, the defence of democracy, rights of the child, hate speech, as well as the implementation of fundamental rights related EU law (Digital Services Act, Whistleblower's Directive) and EU strategies (antisemitism, anti-racism, Roma, LGBTIQ, gender equality).
- 4.2 The COM representative recalled also the ratification by the EU of the Istanbul Convention (on combating violence against women), which then entered into force on 1 October.
- 4.3 She finally informed the Board that Mr Julien Mousnier has been appointed as new Director of Rule of Law, Fundamental Rights and Democracy in DG JUST. He will start his mandate on 16 October 2023 and will be replacing Emmanuel Crabit in the Management Board.

## 5 Financial matters

### Main Conclusions:

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- 5.1 The Board received an update on financial matters which were presented at the online 35<sup>th</sup> Budget Committee meeting the day before, including information on budget execution, transfers and amendments to the programming documents.
- 5.2 The Head of Corporate Services informed that at the Budget Committee meeting, Irena Ilieva (BG) had been re-elected Chair of the Committee for a second mandate.

## 6 Budgetary transfer 2023\_02 and Amendment n.3 of the Programming Document 2023 – 2025

### Main Conclusions:

- 6.1 The Head of Corporate Services introduced the second budgetary transfer.
- 6.2 He informed the Board that the Programming Document 2023-2025 has been amended to reflect the proposed budgetary transfers.
- 6.3 The Management Board adopted the budgetary transfer n.2 and the amendment n. 3 of the Programming Document 2023-2025.

**Decision:** C. The Management Board adopted the Budget transfer 2023\_02 and the amendment n. 3 of the Programming Document 2023-2025.

## 7 Amending budget 2023\_02

### Main Conclusions:

- 7.1 The Head of Corporate Services presented the proposed amending budget n. 2 providing a detailed explanation about the funds received by the Agency, namely from the European Commission for Title I, from the EEA & Norway Grants for projects, and the Austrian authorities as a rent subsidy.
- 7.2 He informed the Board that, in accordance with the financial rules, some posts of assistant level will be transformed in administrator posts, bearing no financial implications.
- 7.3 The Management Board discussed and adopted the Amending Budget 2023\_02.

**Decision:** D. The Management Board adopted the amending budget 2023\_02.

## 8 Update on the Draft Programming Document 2024-2026

### Main Conclusions:

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- 8.1 The Management Board was provided with an update on the draft Programming Document 2024-2026 ahead of its adoption at the December Management Board meeting.
- 8.2 During the presentation, the Head of Corporate Services informed the Board about the expected financial issues caused by an increase of tasks linked to the extended mandate and additional roles assigned through EU secondary legislation without a corresponding increase of resources. The financial difficulties might affect some FRA projects and surveys.
- 8.3 The Commission confirmed its support in securing additional budgetary resources and reiterated the importance of FRA surveys as core business of the agency.
- 8.4 It was agreed that a discussion with the relevant services of the Commission will be engaged before the next MB to discuss the lack of budget (2million) for the survey on immigrants.

## 9 Delegation of responsibilities to the Executive Board

### Main Conclusions:

- 9.1 The Management Board discussed the list of responsibilities that according to article 12.7 of FRA's amended founding regulation can be delegated to the Executive Board.
- 9.2 The Board agreed to renew the existing delegations to the EB of article 12.6 (i) "Adoption of implementing rules for giving effect to the Staff Regulations and the Conditions of Employment, in accordance with Article 110(2) of the Staff Regulations and article 12.6 (j) "Adoption of the arrangements on transparency and access to documents in accordance with Article 17(2)".
- 9.3 It also agreed to maintain under its responsibility the adoption of the rules for the prevention and management of conflicts of interest in respect of its members as well as of the Scientific Committee members (article 12.6 (n)) and the adoption and regular update of the communication strategy (article 12.6 (o)).
- 9.4 The Board will decide at a later stage on the delegation of other responsibilities.

### Decision:

E. The MB renewed the delegation to the Executive Board of the responsibilities listed in article 12.6 (i) and article 12.6 (j) of the FRA's amended founding regulation.

## 10 Annual Report Editorial Committee (AREdit): Election of one member

### Main Conclusions:

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- 10.1 The Vice-Chairperson informed that the mandate of Noémie Sadler (LU) in the Annual Report Editorial Committee (AREdit) will end on 21 November 2023. Consequently, one post will become vacant after that date.
- 10.2 Anne Peters (DE) submitted her candidacy and presented her credentials.
- 10.3 The Management Board elected Anne Peters to AREdit for a term of two-and-a-half years starting on 22 November 2023.

<b>Decision:</b>	F. The Management Board elected Anne Peters for a term of two-and-a-half years starting on 22 November 2023.
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## 11 Any other business

### Main Conclusions:

#### 11.1 FRA Communications Strategy 2023-2028

The Board was informed that the draft FRA Communications Strategy 2023-2028, under preparation, will be submitted for adoption at the MB meeting in December.

#### 11.2 Administrative arrangements with Eurostat

The Board was informed about the administrative arrangements between FRA and Eurostat, including a proposal to invite the Director of Eurostat to the Management Board meeting on an ad-hoc basis in the frame of such arrangements.

## 12 In camera session

### Main Conclusions:

The Management Board discussed confidential matters.

Date of the next meeting: 14 and 15 December 2023

<b>Approved on:</b>	15 December 2023
<b>By the Chair:</b>	