

FRONTEX EVALUATION REPORT 2017

# Pulsar Concept Joint Operation Pegasus 2017

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Field Deployment Unit

Approved at Warsaw

*[signed]*  
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## 1. Background information

### 1.1. Brief risk assessment and operational concept

Joint Operation Pegasus 2017 was based on the operational concept which had been introduced in 2014. This concept consists in deploying Frontex seconded Team Members with specific skills at selected airports in order to interview targeted irregular migrants and assess the level and the nature of a possible threat. The purpose of the analysis performed by Frontex was to propose relevant operational activity or to put forward suggestions as to how to tackle a possible threat.

Seconded Team Members who were deployed during the Joint Operation at EU airports were requested to undertake second-line interviews with migrants whose profiles matched the threat/emerging phenomena which were identified in the first steps of the deployment.

The selection of airports where Team Members would be deployed during in the Joint Operation was decided on the basis of risk analysis.

#### EMPACT Joint Action Days (JAD) Aeolos 2017

In addition, JO Pegasus 2017 was embedded as an Operational Action within the EMPACT Operational Action Plan Facilitated Illegal Immigration. In this framework, a week long activity (from 5 September 2017 to 14 September 2017) was carried out to identify organised criminal involvement in arranging irregular migration and trafficking in human beings. The activity involved the participation of partners from Europol and Interpol, and was performed at 39 MS/SAC and non-EU airports.

### 1.2. Operational aim

Joint Operation Pegasus 2017 was implemented under the umbrella of Pulsar Concept. The main aim of JO Pegasus 2017 was to focus upon and to provide operational support against identified threats at Member State airports as indicated by Frontex through the Pulsar information reaction mechanism.

### 1.3. Period of implementation and operational areas

The Joint Operation was implemented from 21 February to 31 December 2017 in the operational area formed by 10 airports of Member States.

### 1.4. Participants

A total of 11 Member States with 10 participating airports took part in the implementation of Joint Operation Pegasus 2017. During the implementation 10 officers (*including 7 Seconded Team Members, 2 International Organisation representatives and 1 Team Member*) were deployed at these airports according to operational requirements for a total of 673 man-days covering the profiles of Second-Line Interview Officer and/or Advanced-Level Document Officer. Taking into account operational needs, one officer with Tamil language skills was also deployed at one airport.

### 1.5. Financial information

The total committed budget for JO Pegasus 2017 was €178,725.

## 2. Achievement of objectives

1. Enhance exchange of knowledge among officers (Frontex and MS & SAC) - Achieved

*Deployment of Team Members and seconded Team Members.*

2. **Enhance border security (Frontex and MS & SAC) - Achieved**  
*Supported targeted response focusing on targets/ recommendations according to available capacities.*
3. **Enhance exchange of information (Frontex, MS & SAC) - Partially Achieved**  
*Create Bi-weekly Analytical Updates*
4. **Identify risks and threat - Achieved**  
*Interview selected passengers based on risk analysis indications & collect information with local authorities*
5. **Maximise the potential of the EMPACT programme so that it meets the needs of Member State border guards- Achieved**  
*On the basis of intelligence received by Europol, JAD Aeolos delivered 18 arrests for offences relating to facilitation of illegal entry, trafficking in human beings and document fraud.*

### 3. Link to other Frontex activities and best practices

All activities within JO Pegasus 2017 were designed to allow parallel or complementary operational actions and to take advantage of other Frontex projects and products, especially the ones implemented by the Air Border Sector (*e.g. Vega Countermeasures Handbook, Reference Manual or air border joint operations running concurrently*). In order to maximise the deployment of the seconded Team Members, from 1 November to 13 December 2017 an Italian sTM was dually deployed within the framework of JO Focal Points Air Regular Officers and Pegasus.

Furthermore, JO Pegasus 2017 provided for the inclusion of EMPACT activities in Frontex annual programme of work at airports

## 4. Operational results

### 4.1. Situational Awareness

#### 4.1.1. Threats and Risks, *modus operandi* and trends identified

The Joint Operation highlighted some aspects of irregular migration and trafficking in human beings at the EU's external air borders, some of them being already observed in the framework of other Frontex Joint Operations.

### 4.2. EU added value of the operational activity

This activity delivered the following main benefits:

- Increased targeted reaction capabilities.
- Better allocation of limited resources (officers with specific knowledge/expertise).
- Sharper perception of current illegal migration trends.
- Enhanced situational awareness leading to improved focused recommendations.
- Flexible and more targeted reaction capabilities.
- Synergies developed with the activities of other key partners.