

Matthias Oel
Director
Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs
Directorate B: Borders, Interoperability and Innovation
European Commission

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Please quote when replying.

Warsaw, 23 March 2021

Subject: Frontex expenses for hospitality in expensive restaurants

Dear Mr Oel,

In reference to your letter (Ref.:Ares(2021)1367516) dated 19/02/2021 regarding the Written Question [E-261/2021], submitted by MEP Özlem Demirel to the Commission, please find below the Agency's answers.

QUESTION 1: In which years did how many people participate in a joint dinner in an expensive restaurant on the occasion of a European Border and Coast Guard Day?

The annual European Border and Coast Guard Day (previously known as European Day for Border Guards - ED4BG) has been gathering nearly a thousand participants representing border and coast guard authorities coming from Europe but also from third countries as well as international organisations and other relevant EU Agencies each year. The aim of this particular event has been to discuss strategic issues related to border management globally, offer networking possibilities for the participants and exchange of best practices. Each year the event was organised in a location offering enough exposition space and accommodation for the guests including the possibility to host a joint dinner as part of the programme. Below you can find the estimated number of participants attending the dinner from 2015 to 2019:

Year	Place	Number of guests
2015	Restaurant 'Belvedere', Warsaw, Poland	800
2016	Narvil Hotel, Serock, Poland	550
2017	Narvil Hotel, Serock, Poland	400
2018	Sheraton Sopot Hotel, Poland	600
2019	Arlamow Hotel, Poland	600

Question 2: What costs were incurred for these individual events in each year for the travel and accommodation of invited guests and for the dinners with all participants?

Answer: The scope of the contract for organisation of the European Border and Coast Guard Day has differed from year to year depending on the event's location, range of guests, different requirements depending on the theme of the event as well as the number of side events organised simultaneously, thus, the costs presented for simplicity in the below table are not fully comparable from one year to another as the scope of services under each contract varies. Reimbursement costs are paid in line with the EU reimbursement rules to all eligible external participants. It is also worth mentioning that guests from other EU Agencies or EU Institutions are not covered under the reimbursement rules as they receive their regular Daily Substance Allowance as part of the mission claim.

Year and place	Reimbursement costs (covering travel, accommodation and daily subsistence allowance (DSA) for the eligible external participants in line with the reimbursement rules) (EUR)	Costs of transportation (including, <i>inter alia</i> , costs for meeting point and parking at the airport, transportation of guests to the hotel, transfers due to delayed flights, transport of Frontex staff who participated in main event and transport coordination) including contractors fee (EUR)	Accommodation for Frontex staff during the main event and accompanying meetings + possibly for VIP guests not falling under the reimbursement scheme (EUR)	Cost of the dinner (EUR)
2015 Warsaw	63,945.05	14,773.91	N/A	94,171.03
2016 Serock	61,434.24	28,517.9	5,941.46*	25,616.11
Comment for 2016	* The amount includes only costs of accommodation for Frontex staff involved in the organisation of the main event and speakers. Due to the close proximity to Warsaw, the accommodation of representative of the Polish authorities was not requested.			
2017 Serock	10,710.88	30,401.22	3,664.80**	20,682.20
Comment for 2017	** The amount includes only costs of accommodation for Frontex staff involved in the organisation of the main event and speakers. The situation is analogous to that in 2016.			
2018 Sopot	107,732.62	70,311.99	63,687.50 ***	28,107.13
Comment for 2018	*** The amount includes only costs of accommodation for Frontex staff during the European Border and Coast Guard Day event and 9 accompanying meetings organised in Sopot. For this purpose, rooms in 5 hotels were booked to accommodate staff members carrying out their duty during the main event and 9 accompanying meetings.			
2019 Arlamow	90,502.64	63,760.23	25,716.77 ****	29,450.92

Comment for 2019	**** The amount includes costs of accommodation for Frontex staff involved in the organisation of the main event and of some accompanying meetings and VIP guests, including: Ambassadors, Representatives of Embassies, Representatives of Polish Authorities, Representatives and Speakers from Western Balkan Countries and Eastern Partnership Countries.			

Question 3: Why did Frontex decide not to hold the European Border and Coast Guard Day any more?

The Agency has been constantly working on improving the concept of the annual event to bring more professional and more operational content, while meeting the need to grow the European Border and Coast Guard community. In response to the changing environment and the needs of the MS/SAC as well as given the adoption of the new 1896/2019 Regulation in November 2019, the Agency shifted all its efforts into the establishment of the European Border and Coast Guard standing corps. Given the scope and the importance of that task it was decided to fully commit all resources to this important task which would serve for the benefit of the MS/SAC offering a range of different operational services.

Yours sincerely,



Fabrice Leggeri
Executive Director