Treating People as Objects? – Interview FRONTEX

**QUESTIONS**

**General**

How would you define your **day to day role** – is it one of monitoring?

What do you see as the **most challenging fundamental rights (FR) risks/challenges at the border**?

**Training – FRA Relations**

Is there a potential **dilemma between protecting FR and border management**? FRA reply to Inquiry from European Ombudsman in Oct 2012 suggests these two things are not incompatible … but also suggests a culture where these two things might be in conflict.

To remedy/change this culture, the answer is FR training/ the **FR training concept**. Can you tell me more about your understanding of and your role on the **Fundamental Rights Strategy** of Frontex as defined in art 26(a)(1) of Reg 1168/2011?

Is it an effective strategy – is it working? I have seen the ‘FR Training for **Frontex Manual 2011**’ and there is a lot of detail here on the five modules, their learning outcomes etc … but at that stage this strategy and training needed implementing; has it been implemented?

How does training manifest in **crises v routine work**?

… Current **migrant crisis/situation in Greece**/Lesbos and the EU-Turkey Agreement of March 2016: Frontex to provide operational support: 50 Return Experts + Transport (8 vessels and 28 buses) … What are the challenges here? How are the Return Experts trained in FR?

Training manual was developed in **cooperation with Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)** – how do you see the relationship with FRA (cooperation?)?

… How do you see the relationship developing?

Is **mainstreaming** the way forward? (following impetus from UN Special Rapporteur on HR of Migrants, Crepeau …)

**Solidarity**

Would you say that FRA-Frontex relations are furthering the solidarity objective of the EU (Art 80 TFEU?

**How do you think fundamental rights and solidarity are connected** - e.g. is it that rights are not enough to deal with the migrant crisis and solidarity is needed to supplement them, or is it that solidarity is needed to underpin the work of Frontex (and so may be separate from the operation of the fundamental rights lens), or is it that solidarity comes into conflict with rights in responses to the migrant crisis …

… **Is solidarity a challenge from a FR perspective** – in 2013 FRA published ‘EU solidarity and Frontex: FR Challenges’ … (can you have solidarity with migrants – Cecilia Malstrom Press Release 2013)

To what extent is solidarity a factor that is considered in Frontex's work when using a fundamental rights lens?

**How would you define EU solidarity**? When solidarity does play a role how is it conceptualised - e.g. is it thought of as something that exists purely between states, is it thought of as something that exists between the people of the EU (rather than just the states of the EU), or does it extend to a wider (or smaller) population that this?

**Technology**

Re rights of migrants - Have you seen any tensions emerging between fundamental rights of migrants and the increased use of **technology** to track and trace them (Eurodac, Eurosur, etc.)? (if asked for clarification: is there a danger that migrants are treated more as objects due to this use of technology to fingerprint and watch their movements (like a UPS package?), rather than rights-claiming subjects?)

Do **fundamental rights** have a presence within the operation of this **technology** - e.g. how are rights folded/included in the work of Eurosur or Eurodac (are fingerprints erased after a certain amount of time? is data held on migrants in perpetuity?)?

Irregular migrant - Crisis

We no longer use ‘**illegal migrant’** (after Crepeau) but is ‘irregular migrant’ also a damaging term?

Do you see the current phenomenon as a crisis? Is it a **migrant crisis or a refugee crisis**?

**Is there a solution: is it a better FR strategy/training? Is it solidarity (with migrants)?**