

## MINUTES MB MEETING

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| <b>Event:</b>  | <b>36<sup>th</sup> Management Board Meeting</b>  |
| <b>Date:</b>   | 20-21 May 2021   |
| <b>Place:</b>  | via videoconferencing  |
| <b>Status:</b>   | <b>Final</b>   |
| <b>Participants:</b>   |  |
| Members/Alternates<br>(when Members are<br>not present):           | Elise Barbé (FR, Chairperson), Nathalie Denies (BE), Irena Ilieva (BG), Veronika Bilkova (CZ), Julia Duchrow (DE alternate, day 1), Heiko Sauer (DE, day 2), Louise Halleskov Storgaard (DK), Kertti Pilvik (EE), Yolanda Gamarra (ES), Višnja Ljubičić (HR alternate, day 2), Sunniva McDonagh (IE, Vice-Chairperson), Oreste Pollicino (IT), Maria Lottidou Stylianou (CY, day 2), Mārtiņš Pāparinskis (LV), Lyra Jakulevicienė (LT), Noémie Sadler (LU), Giannino Caruana Demajo (MT), Rick Lawson (NL), Elzbieta Karska (PL), Paulo Saragoça da Matta (PT, day 2), Csaba-Ferenc Asztalos (RO), Verica Trstenjak (SI), Michal Davala (SK alternate, day 1), Pavol Zilincik (SK, day 2), Tuomas Ojanen (FI), Anne Ramberg (SE), Philippe Boillat (CoE)                         |
| Director:  | Michael O’Flaherty   |
| Representatives COM:   | Emmanuel Crabit (DG JUST), Nathalie Stockwell (DG JUST)  |
| Operational services:  | Andreas Accardo (Head of Institutional Cooperation and Networks Unit), Rossalina Latcheva (Deputy Head of Research and Data Unit), Constantinos Manolopoulos (Head of Corporate Services Unit), Ann-Charlotte Nygard (Head of Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Unit), Nicole Romain (Head of Communications and Events Unit), Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos (Scientific Adviser), Friso Roscam Abbing (Adviser on Communication), Andreas Miltos (Deputy Accounting Officer), Adrianna Bochenek (Director’s Office), Barbara Jaeschke (Institutional Cooperation and Networks Unit), Anna Vuova (Institutional Cooperation and Networks Unit), Tania Giacomuzzi Mota (Institutional Cooperation and Networks), Elena Balzarini (Institutional Cooperation and Networks Unit) |
| Excused Members:   | Peter Kostelka (AT), Snježana Bagić (HR), Gergely Deli (HU), Elisavet Symenidou-Kastanidou (EL)  |
| Alternates (when<br>Members are<br>present)/Observers/<br>Guests/: | Jan Slotzhy (CZ), Marco Fasciglione (IT), Leena Leikas (FI, day 1), Kathelijne Buitenweg (NL), Michal Davala (SK), Florence Merloz (FR, day 2); Lawrence Early (CoE)<br>Evis Alimehmeti (OBS AL), Uranija Pirovska (OBS MK, day 2), Sasa Gajn (OBS RS),<br>Carlien Scheele (EIGE), Tatiana Termacic (CoE), Dimitra Fellner (EEA & Norway Grants), Theodora Kostakopoulou (Chairperson of the FRA Scientific Committee, day 2)  |

# MINUTES MB MEETING

| <b>Contents:</b>   |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Opening remarks and approval of the draft agenda, possible conflicts of interest .....                                    | 3 |
| 2. Approval of the draft minutes of the 35 <sup>th</sup> MB meeting.....   | 3 |
| 3. a) Report from the 59 <sup>th</sup> and 60 <sup>th</sup> Executive Board Meeting and on the Chairperson's activities..... | 3 |
| b) Report of the Director on the work of FRA in the last period .....  | 3 |
| 4. Update and discussion on EU-Fundamental Rights Policy developments .....  | 4 |
| 5. a) Adoption of the Fundamental Rights Report 2021 .....   | 4 |
| b) Fundamental Rights Report 2022 Focus section and future developments .....  | 4 |
| 6. Financial matters .....   | 5 |
| 7. Opinion of the MB on the Final Accounts 2020 .....  | 5 |
| 8. Adoption of the Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2020 .....  | 5 |
| 9. a) Budgetary transfer 2021_01 .....   | 5 |
| b) Amendment of the Programming Document 2021-2023.....  | 5 |
| 10. Amending Budget 2021_01.....   | 6 |
| 11. External evaluation 2022: adoption of the Terms of Reference .....   | 6 |
| 12. Update on the Programming Document 2022- 2024 .....  | 6 |
| 13. FRA Strategy 2018-2022: Extension into 2023 .....  | 7 |
| 14. Director’s note on the development of the Annual Work Programme 2023 .....   | 7 |
| 15. Budget Committee: Election of one new member.....  | 7 |
| 16. Annual Report Editorial Committee: election of two new members .....   | 8 |
| 17. In camera session .....  | 8 |
| 18. Dates of MB and EB meetings 2021, 2022, 2023 .....   | 8 |
| 19. Fundamental Rights Forum 2021: updates.....  | 9 |
| 20. Appointment of FRA’s Accounting Officer .....  | 9 |
| 21. Any other business .....   | 9 |

# MINUTES MB MEETING

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

| Main Conclusions: |   |
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| 1.1               | The Chairperson opened the 36 <sup>th</sup> MB meeting and welcomed all participants, in particular the newly appointed member Mr Giannino Caruana Demajo (MT) and alternate member Mr Michal Davala (SK).  |
| 1.2               | The Chairperson introduced the draft agenda. She confirmed that the agenda item 11 "External evaluation 2022: adoption of the Terms of Reference" was a point for information not for decision, as communicated to the Board in the revised draft agenda circulated before the meeting.   |
| 1.3               | The Chairperson reminded the Board about the election of two members of the Annual Report Editorial Committee (AREDIT) and one member of the Budget Committee (BC) scheduled on day two of the MB meeting. She invited the members wishing to join the MB working groups to submit their candidacy before the election proceedings. |
| 1.4               | The Chairperson invited Ms Noémie Sadler (LU) who submitted her candidacy to AREDIT to present herself and her qualifications to the Board.   |
| 1.5               | As no comments were received on the draft agenda, the agenda was approved.  |
| 1.6               | The Chairperson asked the MB Members about any conflict of interest pertaining to the agenda of the meeting.  |
| 1.7               | No conflict of interest was identified.   |
| 1.8               | She reminded the members who did not yet submit their annual declaration of interest to provide it to the MB Secretariat promptly.  |
| Decision:         | A. The agenda of the 36 <sup>th</sup> Management Board meeting was approved.  |

## 2. Approval of the draft minutes of the 35<sup>th</sup> MB meeting

| Main Conclusions:   |  |
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| The draft minutes of the 35 <sup>th</sup> Management Board meeting were discussed and approved. |  |
| Decision:   | B. The minutes of the 35 <sup>th</sup> Management Board meeting were approved. |

## 3. a) Report from the 59<sup>th</sup> and 60<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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## MINUTES MB MEETING

- 3.1. The Chairperson reported on the 59<sup>th</sup> EB meeting of 26 February and the 60<sup>th</sup> EB meeting, which took place in the morning, to prepare for the 36<sup>th</sup> MB meeting.
- 3.2. She recalled the adoption by written procedure of the MB Opinion on the MAF 2023-2027 in February 2021. She thanked the members of the working group MAF for the preparation of the MB Opinion.
- 3.3. The Director informed the Board on the Agency's past activities from 1 December to 1 May. He reported on outputs in the five programmatic areas of FRA: "Fair and Equal societies", "Just, digital and secure societies", "Asylum, borders and immigration", "Supporting human rights systems", "Communicating rights". He provided a detailed description of the activities undertaken in each area and updated on internal governance matters.
- 3.4. As regards the current COVID situation, the Director updated the Board on the Agency's internal working arrangements.

### 4. Update and discussion on EU-Fundamental Rights Policy developments

#### Main Conclusions:

- 4.1. The Commission representative informed the MB on the progress in the Council regarding the proposed revision of the FRA Founding Regulation.
- 4.2. The MB was updated on latest fundamental rights related Commission policies and activities, namely the follow-up to the Charter Strategy and the Anti-Racism Action Plan. The Commission representative also informed the Board about the new Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Fund; the new Rights of the Child Strategy adopted in March 2021; the future strategy on antisemitism and the upcoming review of the victims' rights directive. The Board was also informed about the launch of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

### 5. a) Adoption of the Fundamental Rights Report 2021

#### b) Fundamental Rights Report 2022 Focus section and future developments

#### Main Conclusions:

- 5.1. The Chairperson of the Annual Report Editorial Committee (AREDIT), reported on the activities of AREDIT regarding the Fundamental Rights Report (FRR) 2021. The work of the FRR drafting team was praised during the presentation.
- 5.2. The Board discussed and adopted the FRR2021.
- 5.3. The Chair of AREDIT reported on the discussion in AREDIT concerning the proposed topic of the focus chapter in the FRR2022.
- 5.4. The Management Board discussed and selected the following topic for the focus section of the FRR2022: "Social rights and equality in the light of the pandemic".

#### Decision:

C. The Fundamental Rights Report 2021 was adopted.

# MINUTES MB MEETING

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| <b>Decision:</b> | D. The Board selected "Social rights and equality in the light of the pandemic" as the Fundamental Rights Report 2022 focus section. |
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## 6. Financial matters

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| <b>Main Conclusions:</b>                                      |
| 6.1. The Board received an update on FRA's financial matters. |

## 7. Opinion of the MB on the Final Accounts 2020

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| <b>Main Conclusions:</b>   |   |
| 7.1. The Management Board heard a presentation from the Deputy Accountant on the Agency's 2020 Final Accounts. |   |
| 7.2. The Management Board adopted its opinion on the Final Accounts 2020                                       |   |
| <b>Decision:</b>   | E. The Management Board adopted its opinion on the Final Accounts 2020. |

## 8. Adoption of the Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2020

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| <b>Main Conclusions:</b>   |   |
| 8.1. The Management Board was presented with the Consolidated Annual Activity Report (CAAR) 2020 and adopted it. |   |
| <b>Decision:</b>   | F. The Management Board adopted the Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2020. |

## 9. a) Budgetary transfer 2021\_01

### b) Amendment of the Programming Document 2021-2023

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| <b>Main Conclusions:</b>   |   |
| 9.1. The Head of Corporate Services (CS) introduced the first budgetary transfer and the first amendment of the Programming Documents 2021-2023. |   |
| 9.2. The Management Board discussed and adopted the budgetary transfer 2021_01 and the amendment 1 of the Programming Document 2021-2023.        |   |
| <b>Decision:</b>   | G. The Management Board adopted the budgetary transfer 2021_01 and the amendment 1 of the Programming Documents 2021-2023 |

**10. Amending Budget 2021\_01**

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| <b>Main Conclusions:</b>   |   |
| 10.1. The Head of Corporate Services (CS) presented the proposed amending budget 2021_01, which was adopted by the Management Board. |   |
| <b>Decision:</b>   | H. The Management Board adopted the amending budget 2021_01 |

**11. External evaluation 2022: adoption of the Terms of Reference**

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| <b>Main Conclusions:</b>  |  |
| 11.1. The Director informed the Board about the preparations for the 3 <sup>rd</sup> external evaluation of FRA, scheduled for 2022. He explained that depending on the development related to FRA’s regulation, the adoption of the technical specifications of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> evaluation would need to take place at the next MB meeting. The periodicity and procedure for the Agency’s external evaluation would change in case FRA’s regulation is amended. |  |
| 11.2. The Board agreed with the proposal to postpone the adoption of the Terms of Reference until the next MB meeting.  |  |

**12. Update on the Programming Document 2022– 2024**

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| <b>Main Conclusions:</b> |
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## MINUTES MB MEETING

- 12.1. The Board was presented with the updated draft Programming Document (PD) 2022-2024.
- 12.2. The Management Board discussed the updated draft PD 2022-2024 which will be adopted in December 2021. While the Commission will submit its statutory formal opinion by July 2021, it provided informal comments to the Board.
- 12.3. Praising the overall quality of the Agency's draft PD and its alignment with the EU policy priorities, the Commission commented on specific areas of work. It underlined the importance that the project be carried out jointly with EIGE (joint ownership and sharing of resources) and in close cooperation with Eurostat to enable a 27 MS analysis of findings and a coordinated dissemination. It encouraged FRA to mitigate risks regarding delays of survey work as a result of COVID (in particular surveys on Roma and on immigrants and descendants of immigrants). The Commission welcomed FRA's continued work to assist Member States in developing sound data collection methods and called on the Agency to support implementation of its new anti-racism action plan. Referring to the usefulness of past FRA work on data protection, it called on FRA to provide information and data on how national data protection authorities have implemented their tasks under the GDPR to feed into the Regulation's evaluation in 2024.
- 12.4. FRA reassured that measures are being taken to mitigate delays in the collection of data due to the pandemic and deliver key findings in time. EIGE and FRA Director confirmed that FRA and EIGE are closely cooperating on the violence against women survey which will be complementary to Eurostat's efforts. A MoU will be drafted and the respective programming documents of the agencies will be adapted.

### 13. FRA Strategy 2018-2022: Extension into 2023

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| <b>Main Conclusions:</b>  |  |
| 13.1. The Director proposed to extend the current strategy 2018-2022 into 2023, given the uncertainty linked to the amendment of the Regulation and a possible new Multi Annual Framework for the period 2023-2027. |  |
| 13.2. The MB discussed and agreed to extend the current strategy 2018-2022 into 2023, given its continued relevance.  |  |
| <b>Decision:</b>  | I. The Management Board extended the FRA Strategy 2018-2022 into 2023. |

### 14. Director's note on the development of the Annual Work Programme 2023

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| <b>Main Conclusions:</b>  |  |
| 14.1. The Director presented the proposed priorities and planned activities for 2023. |  |

### 15. Budget Committee: Election of one new member

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| <b>Main Conclusions:</b> |  |
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## MINUTES MB MEETING

15.1. Given that no candidacy was received, the Board agreed to postpone the election of one member of the Budget Committee (BC) to the next MB meeting.

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| <b>Decision:</b> | J. The election of one member of the Budget Committee was postponed to the next Management Board meeting. |
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### 16. Annual Report Editorial Committee: election of two new members

#### Main Conclusions:

16.1. The Chairperson opened the election of two members of the Annual Report Editorial Committee (AREDIT).

16.2. Noémie Sadler (LU) already presented her area of expertise and qualifications on day one of the Management Board.

16.3. Veronika Bilkova (CZ) submitted her candidacy and presented her area of expertise and qualifications.

16.4. The Management Board elected Noémie Sadler and Veronika Bilkova to AREDIT for a term of 2.5 years.

16.5. The mandate of Noémie Sadler will start on 22 May 2021.

16.6. The Mandate of Veronika Bilkova will start on 12 August 2021.

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| <b>Decision:</b> | K. Noémie Sadler (LU) was elected member of the Annual Report Editorial Committee (AREDIT) for a mandate of 2.5 years starting on 22 May 2021. |
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| <b>Decision:</b> | L. Veronika Bilkova (CZ) was elected member of the Annual Report Editorial Committee (AREDIT) for a mandate of 2.5 years starting on 12 August 2021. |
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### 17. In camera session

#### Main Conclusions:

17.1. The Management Board discussed confidential matters.

### 18. Dates of MB and EB meetings 2021, 2022, 2023

#### Main Conclusions:



## MINUTES MB MEETING

- 18.1. The Management Board was presented with a revised calendar for the 2021 MB meetings and a proposal for the dates of the Executive Board and Management Board meetings in 2022 and 2023.
- 18.2. The Management Board agreed with the revised calendar of 2021 which includes an extraordinary MB meeting on 24 September 2021.
- 18.3. The Management Board agreed on the dates of the Executive Board and Management Boards meetings of 2022 and 2023, including an MB retreat in 2022 and an extraordinary meeting in 2023.

**Decision:**

M. The revised dates of the MB meetings of 2021 were agreed. The dates of the Executive Board and Management Board meetings 2022-2023 were agreed.

### 19. Fundamental Rights Forum 2021: updates

**Main Conclusions:**

- 19.1. The Board received an update on the preparations of the Fundamental Rights Forum (FRF) 2021 taking place on 11-12 October 2021.
- 19.2. The Forum FRF2021 is designed in a hybrid format, with its main location in Vienna and hubs in Ljubljana, Strasbourg, Geneva, Warsaw and Oslo, as well as online. The members were invited to attend.

### 20. Appointment of FRA's Accounting Officer

**Main Conclusions:**

- 20.1. The Board was informed about the necessity to appoint a new FRA Accounting Officer.
- 20.2. Mr Andreas Miltos, the current Deputy Accounting Officer of the Agency, was proposed to be appointed having the required experience and qualifications.
- 20.3. After a discussion, the Management Board appointed Andreas Miltos as FRA Accounting Officer.

**Decision:**

N. The Management Board appointed Andreas Miltos as FRA Accounting Officer.

### 21. Any other business

**Main Conclusions:**

# MINUTES MB MEETING

- 21.1. The Board was informed on how to handle individual complaints from concerned citizens when approached in their capacity as MB members.
- 21.2. The Board was also informed about a study of the European Parliament to examine the role of the Management Boards of the EU's Decentralised Agencies, for which the members will be surveyed.
- 21.3. The Chair reminded that the next MB meeting is scheduled on 24 September 2021 and will take place virtually. She closed the meeting and thanked all participants.

Date of the next meeting: 24 September 2021

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| <b>Approved on:</b>  | 24 September 2021   |
| <b>By the Chair:</b> |  |