



Brussels, 28 November 2023  
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LIMITE

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FREMP 308

#### 'I/A' ITEM NOTE

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From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
Subject:	Selection process for the appointment of the new Director for the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) Approval of a letter to be sent to FRA

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1. The mandate of the outgoing Director of the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), Michael O'Flaherty, expires at the end of 2023. The vacancy notice was published at the Official Journal and on the Europa website on 14 February 2023<sup>1</sup>.
2. Pursuant to Article 15(2) of the Council Regulation (EC) No 168/2007 of 15 February 2007 establishing FRA, as amended by Council Regulation (EU) 2022/555 of 5 April 2022, the Commission, following the conclusion of the preliminary phase of the selection procedure carried out by it, establishes a short list of candidates. These short-listed candidates will be asked to address in hearings the Council and the European Parliament. The latter two shall give their opinions and state their orders of preference to the Management Board of FRA which shall appoint the Director, taking the above opinions into account.
3. The Commission adopted its shortlist of candidates on 27 September 2023 and the Agency communicated them to the Council on 13 October 2023 so that the hearings can be conducted.

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<sup>1</sup> COM/2023/20091, OJ 2023/C 55 A/01 14.2.23.

4. The European Parliament carried out its hearings of the short-listed candidates on 25 October 2023.
5. On 8 November 2023, the Permanent Representatives Committee, pursuant to Article 15(2) of the Council Regulation (EC) No 168/2007, as amended by Council Regulation (EU) 2022/555, mandated a troika panel at Ambassadors level (composed of the previous, current and incoming Presidencies) to conduct the hearings of the shortlisted candidates and to report to Coreper/Council on their order of preference thereof with a view to confirming it.
6. The hearings of the short-listed candidates took place on 28 November 2023. The order of preference recommended by the troika is as follows:
  - Ms Sirpa Tuulikki Rautio
  - Mr Nils Muižnieks
  - Mr Jonas Grimheden

It is noted that the fourth candidate included in the Commission's short list, Jim Clarcken, withdrew his candidature before the hearings on 28 November 2023.

7. The Permanent Representatives Committee is therefore asked to suggest that the Council, at a forthcoming meeting,
  - agree on the order of preference of the candidates indicated above;
  - approve the sending of the draft letter in the Annex to the FRA's Management Board.

***Draft letter to the Management Board  
of the Fundamental Rights Agency***

**Brussels,**

**Rick Lawson**  
**Vice-Chairperson of the Management Board**  
**European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights**  
**Schwarzenbergplatz 11**  
**A-1040 Vienna**  
**Austria**

**Subject: Appointment of the new Director of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)**

Dear Mr Lawson,

I am pleased to inform you that, pursuant to Article 15 of Council Regulation (EC) No 168/2007 as amended by Council Regulation (EU) 2022/555, the Council has decided on the following order of preference:

- Ms Sirpa Tuulikki Rautio
- Mr Nils Muižnieks
- Mr Jonas Grimheden

The fourth candidate included in the Commission's short list, Jim Clarcken, withdrew his candidature before the hearings on 28 November 2023.

[Complimentary close]