

2. FRONTEX PROPOSAL

Bearing in mind Frontex mandate and risk analysis, related to possible factors affecting the migratory flows in the Central Mediterranean area, a new operational concept as well as an operational area has to be established.

2.1. Basic scenario: extension of EPN Hermes 2014 with current calibre (scale of deployments with appropriate costs per month)

The general operational aim and objectives would remain the same as for current EPN Hermes 2014 established in the operational plan.

Operational area:

Modified operational area and management of activities of JO EPN Aeneas 2014 would become a consolidated part of extended JO EPN Hermes 2014 as from 1 October 2014. JO EPN Hermes 2014 extension area will not overlap with national JO Mare Nostrum as they serve different purposes.

That area would have its limits closer to the EU shores and could also include area around Malta (MT), if such possibility would be confirmed by MT authorities. This provides clarity regarding tasks, duration and responsibility including command and control. Indeed, border surveillance JO does not require the same calibre as Mare Nostrum. However, there is an estimation for low operational effectiveness of JO Hermes 2014 as long as Mare Nostrum is running (because the latter is covering and intercepting the migratory routes beforehand).

Therefore, having IT proposal as a base, Frontex suggest limiting the operational area of EPN Hermes 2014 extension adjusting some of the suggested coordinates as presented in the map below:

