



THE FIGHT AGAINST IRREGULAR IMMIGRATION BY THE SEA: COMMENTS ON THE INSTITUTION OF AN ITALIAN CONTIGUOUS ZONE

The article deals with an analysis of the EU border protection apparatus, in the context of the joint border surveillance initiative (EUROSUR), with special reference to the competences of the new European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex). In September 2018, the European Commission suggested strengthening the mission of the European Border and Coast Guard, issuing a regulation proposal with the aims to establish a permanent body entrusted with the protection of EU maritime borders. EU policy concerning the role and responsibilities of the European Member States, i.e. coastal States, is then examined in the light of International Law of the Sea, with special reference to limits of State jurisdiction concerning monitoring and control of activities in the high sea areas. In this context, the debated question of the existence, or not, of a contiguous Italian zone will also be mentioned. Finally, the paper points out the utilities that can arise from an organized sharing information system between all the subjects that play a central role in managing safety at sea.