



Brussels, 27 June 2016
(OR. en)

10506/16

JAI 604
COMIX 460

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From: the Mixed Committee at Ministerial level
On: 10 June 2016
Subject: Outcome of proceedings of the meeting of the Mixed Committee at Ministerial level on 10 June 2016.

1. **Weapons:** Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons
(**First reading**)
= Policy debate
9841/16 GENVAL 66 JAI 527 MI 421 COMPET 355 COMIX 425 CODEC 816

The Mixed Committee at Ministerial level held a policy debate, following which the Chair concluded that the Council would subsequently be in a position to reach a general approach on the amended draft Directive set out in document 9841/16.

2. **Migration**
 - a) Implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement, 18 March 2016
 - b) Developments regarding the Central Mediterranean= Exchange of views

Ministers discussed the current migratory situation and in particular the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement of 18 March 2016 and the migratory flows in the Central Mediterranean.

Ministers reaffirmed that returns to Turkey from Greece should be stepped up; for this, action was urgently needed in Greece. The EU's assistance, through Frontex and EASO, should also prioritise its contributions to these returns. Ministers supported the steps taken by the Greek authorities to address the issues of return to Turkey.

Ministers stressed that asylum and reception capacity must increase and living conditions must be improved.

Participating States were invited to speed up the resettlement of Syrian refugees from Turkey under the 1:1 scheme and prepare for the Voluntary Humanitarian Admission Scheme. They were also urged to accelerate the relocation of asylum seekers from Greece and Italy, in accordance with the Council decisions of September 2015.

3. **Visa liberalisation**

- a) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (**Georgia**) (**First reading**)
 - b) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (**Ukraine**) (**First reading**)
 - c) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (**Turkey**) (**First reading**)
 - d) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (**Kosovo***) (**First reading**)
- = Progress report

Ministers held a general debate on visa liberalisation in the light of the recent proposals by the Commission related to Georgia, Ukraine, Kosovo* and Turkey.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

The Presidency concluded that there was not yet enough support for the adoption of a mandate to start negotiations with the European Parliament on the proposal regarding visa liberalisation for Georgia. Several Member States expressed their dissatisfaction with this situation and their hope that a mandate would be approved as soon as possible. The four proposals that are currently on the table (namely Georgia, Ukraine, Kosovo* and Turkey) would be examined further in the following weeks in the relevant bodies of the Council. Ministers stressed that visa requirements could only be lifted when previously agreed benchmarks were fulfilled. Ministers also noted that the decision would be taken in a strict and fair manner on the basis of the assessment by the Commission as to whether the benchmarks had been fulfilled.

4. **European Border Guard:** Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Border and Coast Guard and repealing Regulation (EC) No 2007/2004, Regulation (EC) 863/2007 and Council Decision 2005/267/EC
(**First reading**)
= Progress report
9716/1/16 REV 1 FRONT 235 SIRIS 94 CODEC 801 COMIX 421

Ministers were briefed by the Presidency on the state of play as regards the proposed Regulation establishing a European Border Guard. The aim of the Presidency was to reach an agreement between the two co-legislators by the end of June, as requested by the European Council.

5. **Any other business**
= Information from the Presidency on current legislative proposals

Ministers took note of the information communicated by the Presidency on current legislative proposals.

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