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OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3539th Council meeting

Justice and Home Affairs

Brussels, 18 May 2017

President **Carmelo Abela**
Minister for Home Affairs and National Security

P R E S S

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- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
- Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
- Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

ITEMS DEBATED

Common European asylum system reform

Ministers discussed informally the effective application of the principles of responsibility and solidarity in the context of the reform of the common European asylum system. The presidency will continue its efforts to take forward work on this topic.

[Migration response: reforming the common European asylum system](#)

Fight against serious and organised crime

The Council adopted conclusions on setting the EU's priorities for the fight against serious and organised crime during the 2018-2021 policy cycle. These conclusions identify 10 EU crime priorities: cybercrime, drugs, facilitating illegal immigration, organised property crime, trafficking in human beings, excise and missing trader intra-community fraud, firearms, environmental crime, criminal finances and money laundering, and document fraud.

The policy cycle is a methodology adopted by the EU in 2010 to address the most important criminal threats affecting the EU. Each policy cycle lasts four years and makes it possible to target such threats in a coordinated and structured way.

[Council conclusions on setting the EU's priorities for the fight against organised and serious international crime between 2018 and 2021](#)

[EU policy cycle for organised and serious international crime for the period 2018-2021](#)

Aviation security

The European Commission briefed ministers on the meeting held between the EU and the US on 17 May 2017 to discuss issues related to aviation security and, in particular, security procedures for large electronic items. It informed ministers that the US and the EU expressed their commitment to continue working closely on aviation security matters, including at a meeting in Washington DC next week.

Counter-terrorism

Over lunch, defence ministers discussed counter-terrorism together with home affairs ministers. They focused on improving cooperation and information exchange between military and law enforcement structures.

[EU fight against terrorism](#)

Migration

During a joint dinner, home affairs and development ministers addressed the external dimension of migration, to ensure full coherence between migration and development policies. They discussed how to reinforce cooperation with countries of origin and transit to address the root causes of migration, prevent irregular migration and improve return, readmission and reintegration of irregular migrants.

[Migration response: working with countries of origin and transit](#)

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Automated data exchange

Concerning the evaluation of the Czech Republic with regard to automated exchange of vehicle registration data, the Council adopted conclusions on the implementation of the general provisions on data protection of Chapter 6 of Council Decision 2008/615/JHA. ([8195/17](#))

Concerning the evaluation of Portugal with regard to automated exchange of dactyloscopic data, the Council adopted conclusions on the implementation of the general provisions on data protection of Chapter 6 of Council Decision 2008/615/JHA.

The Council adopted an implementing decision on the automated data exchange with regard to DNA data in Slovakia, Portugal, Latvia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Cyprus, Poland, Sweden, Malta and Belgium and replacing Decisions 2010/689/EU, 2011/472/EU, 2011/715/EU, 2011/887/EU, 2012/58/EU, 2012/299/EU, 2012/445/EU, 2012/673/EU, 2013/3/EU, 2013/148/EU, 2013/152/EU and 2014/410/EU. ([13525/16](#))

The Council adopted an implementing decision on the automated data exchange with regard to vehicle registration data (VRD) in Malta, Cyprus and Estonia, and replacing Council Decisions 2014/731/EU, 2014/743/EU and 2014/744/EU. ([13499/16](#))

The Council adopted an implementing decision on the automated data exchange with regard to vehicle registration data (VRD) in Finland, Slovenia, Romania, Poland, Sweden, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Slovakia and Hungary and replacing Decisions 2010/559/EU, 2011/387/EU, 2011/547/EU, 2012/236/EU, 2012/664/EU, 2012/713/EU, 2013/230/EU, 2013/692/EU and 2014/264/EU. ([13529/16](#))

The Council adopted an implementing decision on the automated data exchange with regard to dactyloscopic data in Slovakia, Bulgaria, France, Czech Republic, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Hungary, Cyprus, Estonia, Malta, Romania and Finland, and replacing Decisions 2010/682/EU, 2010/758/EU, 2011/355/EU, 2011/434/EU, 2011/888/EU, 2012/46/EU, 2012/446/EU, 2012/672/EU, 2012/710/EU, 2013/153/EU, 2013/229/EU and 2013/792/EU. ([13526/16](#))

The Council adopted an implementing decision on the automated data exchange with regard to dactyloscopic data in Latvia, and replacing Council Decision 2014/911/EU. ([13521/16](#))

AGRICULTURE

EU Accession to the International Cotton Advisory Committee

The Council adopted a decision on the accession of the European Union to the International Cotton Advisory Committee - ICAC (15540/16 + [ADD1](#)).

The ICAC is an association of governments of cotton producing, consuming and trading countries. It was formed in 1939 and its objective is to assist governments in fostering a healthy world cotton economy. The role of the ICAC is to raise awareness, to provide information and to serve as a catalyst for cooperative action on issues of international significance.

The EU is a producer of cotton and has evolved from a net cotton importer to, as of 2009, a net cotton exporter. Furthermore, the EU textiles and clothing industry is a major user of cotton cloth. Cotton is also an important area for European development cooperation, with the EU remaining one of the main donors to the African cotton sector.