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3811th Council meeting

Justice and Home Affairs

Brussels, 31 August 2021

President **Aleš Hojs**
Minister of the Interior of Slovenia

P R E S S

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OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

none

¹ • 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

Situation in Afghanistan

Home affairs ministers met to discuss developments in Afghanistan, more specifically regarding potential implications in the areas of international protection, migration and security. The Council adopted a statement on the matter.

[Statement on the situation in Afghanistan](#)

The statement stresses that the evacuation of EU citizens and, to the extent possible, of Afghan nationals who have cooperated with the EU and its member states and their families, has been carried out as a matter of priority and will be continued.

As an immediate priority, the EU will continue to coordinate with international partners, in particular the UN and its agencies, on the stabilisation of the region and to ensure that humanitarian aid reaches the vulnerable populations. The EU will also engage with and strengthen its support to third countries, in particular the neighbouring and transit countries, hosting large numbers of migrants and refugees.

The EU will also cooperate with those countries to prevent illegal migration from the region. The EU and its member states are also determined to act jointly to prevent the recurrence of uncontrolled large-scale illegal migration movements faced in the past, by preparing a coordinated and orderly response. With the support of Frontex, they remain determined to protect the EU external borders effectively and prevent unauthorised entries, and to assist the most affected member states.

The EU and its member states will do their utmost to ensure that the situation in Afghanistan does not lead to new security threats for EU citizens. All efforts must be made to ensure that the Taliban regime ceases all ties and involvement with international terrorism, and that Afghanistan does not again become a sanctuary for terrorists and organised crime groups.

Representatives of the Schengen associated countries - Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland - were also present at the meeting.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED
