

**TRIO PRESIDENCY OF HUNGARY, POLAND AND ROMANIA
18-MONTH WORK PROGRAMME**

1 July 2012 – 31 December 2013

By evaluating and assessing the challenges, results and experience of the Salzburg Forum (SF) over the first ten years, the Ministers determined the new framework for cooperation at EU and regional level as well as with third countries in the Salzburg Forum Vision 2020. Thereby the Ministers even decided on the future structures and methods of cooperation including the introduction of trio presidencies and the elaboration and implementation of 18-month work programmes.

In the first 18-month programme accomplished from 1 January 2011 to 30 June 2012 Austria, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic have made significant efforts to strengthen the cooperation of the Salzburg Forum states within the EU, to further enhance regional partnership and intensify the platform of the “Friends of the Salzburg Forum”.

As of 1 July 2012 Hungary, Poland and Romania will take up the Trio Presidency of the Salzburg Forum. As an important development, the Salzburg Forum states welcome Croatia as full member of the Salzburg Forum and look forward to the fruitful cooperation in the implementation of the 18-month work programme.

1. COOPERATION AT EU LEVEL

The followings are identified as those strategic issues expected to be on the EU agenda in the next 18 months where cooperation within the Salzburg Forum should be enhanced and possible shared interests could be explored. This is a living document which can be amended and updated according to the developments.

| Action | Objectives | Activities | Lead nation(s) | Time-frame |
|---|---|---|---|------------------|
| 1. The implementation of the Stockholm Programme | | | | |
| 1.1. Schengen governance | Guaranteeing the principle of free movement of persons while taking into account the security interests of the region, securing effective functioning of the Schengen area, establishing an effective Schengen evaluation mechanism | Coordination of positions, joint papers on shared positions | Romania, Hungary, Austria, the Czech Republic | ongoing |
| 1.2. Accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the Schengen area | The final positive political decision should be made in September 2012. The EU Council Decisions should be adopted. | Strong and continuous support of the Salzburg Forum states to Bulgaria and Romania. Joint letter to PRES, COM and the MSs | Poland | 2nd half of 2012 |
| 1.3. Smart borders | | Coordination of positions | Hungary | ongoing |
| 1.4. Common European Asylum System | | Coordination of positions | Austria | ongoing |
| 1.5. EU strategy on trafficking in human beings | | Coordination of positions | Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria | ongoing |
| 1.6. Data retention | | Coordination of positions | Hungary | ongoing |
| 1.7. Data protection | | Coordination of positions | Poland | ongoing |
| 1.8. EU PNR system | | Coordination of positions | Hungary, Bulgaria | ongoing |
| 1.9. Implementation of the EU Internal Security Strategy | Effective implementation of the EU Internal Security Strategy, strengthening the role of | A workshop will be organised in the 2 nd half of 2012, in Vienna | Austria, Bulgaria | ongoing |

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| | COSI Strengthening cooperation in the field of cyber security | | | |
| 1.10. Solidarity clause | | Elaborating a common concept paper | Austria | ongoing |
| 1.11. Review of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism | | Coordination of positions | Bulgaria | ongoing |
| 1.12. Mid-term review of the Stockholm Programme | | Extensive evaluation of the results, lesson learnt etc. | Poland | 2 nd half of 2012 |
| 2. Preparation of the new multiannual strategy in the field of freedom, security and justice | Channelling the interests of the SF states into the new programme as early as possible | Drawing up of a joint position paper | Poland Slovakia | 2013 |
| 3. New Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020: EU budget for the home affairs area | Identification of common interests | Coordination of positions | | ongoing |
| 4. Making better use of EU funds | Using the EU funds for implementing the actions of the Salzburg Forum | Joint projects | Austria | ongoing |

2. REGIONAL PRACTICAL COOPERATION

| Action | Objective(s) | Activities | Lead nation(s) | Time-frame |
|---|--|---|---------------------|--|
| 1. Facilitating cross-border enforcement of road-safety related traffic offences | Conclusion of the negotiations and implementation of the agreement | Conclusion of the negotiations, Signature of the agreement, Drafting of the implementation agreement (ATIA) | Hungary, Austria | Signature: 2 nd half of 2012 |
| 2. Witness protection | Enhance the cooperation along the agreement | Implementation of the newly concluded agreement, organizing expert workshop with possible invitation | Romania | 2 nd half of 2013 |

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| | | of Russia, Republic of Moldova, Turkey and the countries of the Western Balkan | | |
| 3. Disaster management | Strengthen the cooperation on increasing security of citizens by improving disaster response and civil protection systems, as well as enhancing coordinated disaster management systems with a special focus on integrated flood management | Expert seminar will be organised | Poland, Hungary | ongoing |
| 4. Enhanced police cooperation on the preparation of mass events | Improving the cooperation among the law enforcement authorities | Preparing a manual | Poland | ongoing |
| 5. Implementation of PA 11 – Security of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) | Active involvement of the SF states in the implementation of the objectives set forth in PA 11 of EUSDR | Coordination of joint activities Drafting and implementation of joint projects | Bulgaria, Romania | ongoing |
| 6. Regional Security Cluster - Regionalisation of internal security in the EU | Developing a concept for a Regional Security Cluster, Improving the cooperation | | Austria | ongoing |

3. COOPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

| Action | Objective(s) | Activities | Lead nation(s) | Time-frame |
|--|--|------------|----------------|------------|
| 1. Cooperation with the countries of the Western Balkan | | | | |
| 1.1. Support to Montenegro with a view to the launch of the EU accession negotiations where chapters 23 and 24 are of significant importance | Bringing Montenegro closer to the EU standards on the judiciary and fundamental rights and justice, freedom and security | | | ongoing |

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| 1.2. Cooperation on the fight against cyber crime | Establishment of a regional platform facilitating cybercrime counteraction in Southeast Europe | Holding the second SEE regional conference on cyber security and cybercrime in October 2012 | Bulgaria | ongoing |
| 1.3. Fight against illegal migration | Intensifying regional cooperation | Establishing a common platform to prevent illegal immigration via the Western Balkans by thoroughly discussing the recent trends, to explore further opportunities of practical cooperation, elaborating a comprehensive approach including the aspects of migration management, criminal intelligence, capacity building and training | Hungary | |
| 1.4. Post visa liberalization monitoring mechanism | Maintain the visa free regime with the countries | | Bulgaria Slovakia | |
| 1.5. PEP | | | Austria | |
| 1.6. Sarajevo follow-up | | Workshop "Integration, Fundamental Rights and European Values", 10.-12. December 2012 in Vienna | Austria | ongoing |
| 1.7. Capacity building | Support to the countries in their efforts of institution-building | Cooperation on the best use of IPA funds | | |
| 1.8. Cooperation in countering drug trafficking | Exploring the possibilities for a closer cooperation of the SF countries and their WB | Possible organization of the joint regional International Drug | Bulgaria | ongoing |

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| | Friends with DEA and the Middle East countries | Enforcement Conference in 2013 on exchange of expertise and outlining joint measures for countering drug trafficking. | | |
| 2. Cooperation with the Eastern neighbours | | | | |
| 2.1. Implementation of the Action Plan of the Prague Process | Strengthening the implementation of the Eastern dimension of the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility | Implementation of EC Targeted Initiative on Support of Prague Process Action Plan implementation and its four flagship initiatives | Poland with the assistance of Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and other partner states | 2nd half 2012 – 1st half 2013 |
| 2.2. Support to the Republic of Moldova in the implementation of the Visa Liberalization Action Plan | Bringing the Republic of Moldova closer to the EU standards in justice and home affairs | | Slovakia | |
| 3. Cooperation with Turkey | | | | |
| 3.1. Launching of the cooperation with Turkey | Involving Turkey in the cooperation in the fight against security challenges coming via Turkey | Closer practical cooperation in the fight against illegal migration | Hungary, Bulgaria | ongoing |
| 4. Cooperation with Central Asia | | | | |
| 4.1. Exploring the possible areas of future cooperation with a view to the security challenges originating from or via the region | Preparation of the possible future cooperation with Central Asia | Discussion on the recent trends, evaluation of the implementation of BOMCA, CABSİ etc. | Austria | |
| 5. Regional cooperation processes in Southeast-Europe | | | | |
| 5.1. Enhance the cooperation with the regional organisations | Enhance the effectiveness of the cooperation in the region | Assessment of the synergies between the regional mechanisms in Southeast Europe in the interest of a better and comprehensive approach of the regional security | Romania, Bulgaria | ongoing |

4. AN EFFECTIVE COORDINATION MECHANISM

In order to enhance the effectiveness of the functioning of the Salzburg Forum the new coordination mechanism outlined in the Salzburg Forum Vision 2020 should be fully implemented and adjusted to the recent developments, if necessary. To achieve the objectives and realize the actions as set out in this work programme more engagement and better coordination are deserved. The role of the Presidency-in-office is of crucial importance in this regard. The responsibility of lead nations should also be strengthened in order to develop and bring forward as well as monitor the progress in the implementation of the actions listed in this work programme.

The system of the SF coordination should be capital-based and channelled by the General Coordinators of the Salzburg Forum. The General Coordinators of the Salzburg Forum are invited to regularly meet in the margins of the JAI Council in order to identify the major issues of common interest for the forthcoming period. They also meet personally to extensively prepare the SF ministerial meetings. The SF coordinators support the work of SF General Coordinators, they are in regular contact with each other, and constitute a permanent working platform at the capital level.

Exploring areas of common interests at the very early stage is a key element to meet the overall objective of our cooperation within the Salzburg Forum.

To this end, delegates in the strategic EU Council working groups (COSI, CATS and SCIFA) as well as JHA counsellors should be requested by the General Coordinators to regularly monitor the EU JHA agenda and report to the General Coordinators specifically on this issue.

The re-introduction of the practice of brief regular ministerial meetings (dinner/breakfast) before JAI Council meetings is also strongly advised to share information among the decision-makers in order to coordinate national or regional interests, if necessary. In case of common positions in certain agenda items of the respective JAI Council meeting, joint interventions on behalf of the Salzburg Forum are also encouraged.

More joint papers on issues of common interest are also encouraged which should be coordinated by the respective lead nation or the Presidency-in-office.

Better coordination should also include cooperation on candidatures from SF countries for important positions and seats in the field of home affairs. To this end, a specific coordination mechanism will be drawn up.