



POLICE CHIEFS MEETING

COMMON CONCLUSIONS

12th – 13th October 2016, Mikulov, Czech Republic

The Police Chiefs of the Salzburg Forum Member States met under the Czech Presidency on 12 – 13 October 2016 in Mikulov (Czech Republic). Representatives from the Salzburg Forum member states (Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Austria, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia), Germany, INTERPOL, and Europol took part in the meeting. First session dealt with the fight against terrorism and how to make the information flow and the information systems management more efficient. Second session dealt with the fight against illegal immigration and an intensifying of an exchange of information about counterfeited and forged travel documents. The last session was devoted to the importance of global approach and the role of INTERPOL in the fight against terrorism and illegal immigration.

1. Session: Fight against terrorism – to make a flow of information and a management of information systems more efficient

The Police Chiefs exchanged their views on the importance of an effective exchange of information and management of information systems in the fight against terrorism, serious and organized crime and in ensuring the internal safety of the European Union.

The Police Chiefs emphasized the obligation of member states to share in time relevant information about actual security risks and threats, especially with regard to the present security situation. Persons suspected of terrorism have to be inserted into the European and international databases immediately, information about terrorist attacks have to be shared at once. Any information about terrorism has to be collected, analysed and further shared, and in this sense the international police cooperation is irreplaceable, not only with Europol and INTERPOL, but also among member states themselves.

The Czech presidency of Salzburg Forum proposed to analyse basic police processes to identify practical information needs of the officers, and then to establish minimum standards for using the European information systems. Further consideration about other information systems development has to be based only on clear analysis of real needs of end-users.

Police Chiefs agreed that the basic needs of police officers in the field and their information needs have to be identified, the basic police processes have to be determined. The present analysis by eu-LISA can be helpful; however, the analysis of basic police processes is the first step, a foundation for any further work.

Police Chiefs acknowledged that there is no need to set up new databases or new systems, but it is necessary to motivate police forces to use the present databases, to fill them with substantial and actual data. They stressed the importance of filling the European and international databases by all member states in a standardized way; further relevant feedback by member states has to be provided.



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The Police Chiefs acknowledged that the information exchange among various states, agencies, intelligence services and police forces is challenging not only at national level, but also at the European level.

The Czech presidency of the Salzburg Forum proposed to make reengineering of the communication flow with a view to review an assessment of the functional jurisdiction of the EU working bodies in the area of information systems, to assess needs for interconnection among them, and to set up clear boundaries among them.

2. Fight against illegal immigration – to intensify the exchange of information about counterfeited and forged travel documents

The Police Chiefs discussed the possibility of intensifying an exchange of information about counterfeited or forged travel documents in the context of the fight against illegal immigration. The Police Chiefs acknowledged that the arrivals of illegal immigrants to the EU are closely connected with the problem of irregular travel documents. The number of irregular travel documents is rising; therefore there is a need to unify the European databases for the purpose of better information exchange about forged and counterfeited documents. Also it is necessary to educate the police officers so that they are able to recognize irregular travel documents more properly. Bearing in mind the international character of this type of criminality, it is clear that the solution of this issue has to be provided through joint efforts of the EU member states, third countries and other stakeholders.

Rising number of irregular documents threatens the safety in the EU. The Police Chiefs acknowledged that it is necessary to analyse the present communication channels, the ways how to share information about irregular documents and to harmonize these channels.

As regards an exchange of information about irregular travel documents, the Police Chiefs stressed the importance of the cooperation among member states, with Europol, INTERPOL, and third countries.

3. The importance of global approach and the role of INTERPOL in the fight against terrorism and illegal immigration

The Police Chiefs discussed the importance of global approach and the essential position of INTERPOL. The Police Chiefs acknowledged that present problems are of global character, and it is not sufficient to solve problems only at bilateral or European level. Therefore, there is a need to use INTERPOL as a channel of worldwide coverage, mainly because it disposes of proper databases and of expert capacities. The Police Chiefs called on all states to actively use and propagate an exchange of information about international illegal migrant smuggling networks, recruiting and radicalization of foreign terrorist fighters through



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INTERPOL. Further contributions to the databases iARMS and SLTD are of the utmost importance.

The Police Chiefs reaffirmed the recommendations of the 44th European regional conference of INTERPOL, which took place in May 2016 in Prague.

The Police Chiefs have agreed on the following common conclusions:

- to make progress with the improvement of a flow of information within the EU it is necessary firstly to analyse basic police processes to identify practical information needs of the officers and secondly to establish the minimum standards for using the European information systems to ensure the same standard of security protection within the EU,
- any possible proposals for particular new functionalities, new categories of data or even new systems should be considered only after the all previous possibilities were exhausted and based on real end-users needs,
- the present structure of the EU working bodies active in the area of an information exchange is quite complex and lacks the clearly defined relations of co-operation and responsibility. Therefore, a present state of affairs should be analysed. Further the clear, transparent links and the information flows between individual working groups need to be set up,
- in the context of a fight against illegal migrant smuggling networks, it is necessary to share to the greater extent the information about counterfeited and forged documents, and to use all available communication channels and databases; cooperation with third countries, especially with the countries of origin of illegal migrants, is crucial,
- it is necessary to actively use and promote international exchange of information through INTERPOL in the area against migrant smuggling networks and foreign terrorist fighters, to properly make contributions to all INTERPOL's databases, especially SLTD and IARMS and to use them to their maximal possible extent; further the expert capacities of the INTERPOL have to be employed.

Salzburg Forum member states agreed to put forth these conclusions for approval to Salzburg Forum ministers on the ministerial conference in November 2016, subsequently to submit these as the common position of Salzburg Forum at the Justice and Home Affairs Council level.