

CONCLUSIONS FROM THE SALZBURG FORUM MINISTERIAL MEETING

12-13 May 2010, Bratislava

The Ministers of the Salzburg Forum countries together with Croatia as an observer and with the Republic of Moldova came together under the Slovak Presidency on 12-13 May 2010 in Bratislava. On the occasion of this meeting the Ministers of the Salzburg Forum countries, adopted the following conclusions.

1. Being aware of the potential of the Salzburg Forum, the Ministers held a political discussion on the **Salzburg Forum Vision 2020** initiative and provided guidelines for the experts of the Salzburg Forum Future Group working on the strategic document that will give framework for activities of the Salzburg Forum in the next decade. They called on the experts to submit the draft Salzburg Forum Vision 2020 for approval at the next ministerial conference to be held on August 26-28, 2010 in Salzburg;
2. The Ministers confirmed their full support for the **accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the Schengen area** in accordance with the foreseen calendar during the Hungarian Presidency of the EU Council in 2011. They will look for ways how to - jointly or in bilateral way - provide additional assistance to Bulgaria and Romania in order to assure the completion of the evaluation process, fulfillment of all related requirements and consequently a successful integration.
3. With regards to the **SIS II** development, the Ministers took notice of Council Conclusions of 23 April 2010 according to which the European Commission will present proposal for global schedule and budgetary estimate at the JHA Council meeting on 3-4 June 2010. The Ministers request the Commission to inform about ways how to co-finance the national parts of the SIS II. project via EU budget.
4. The Ministers stressed the need to achieve a geographical balance in the EU policies by strengthening their **Eastern dimension**. Agreeing that the Salzburg Forum, thanks to its geographical location and gained experience, is able to serve as a suitable channel, they opened a discussion with the aim of determining the practical ways to achieve these goals, including a more effective use of EU financial resources.
5. The Ministers welcomed the information of the Polish delegation on the plans to introduce a pilot training programme intended for representatives of the police, border guard and the other services involved in combating crime in the Eastern Partnership countries. They believe that the project would be an important step towards closer cooperation in the areas of internal security improvement in the EU and the Eastern Partnership countries.
6. The Ministers reiterated that the creation of a Common European Asylum System is one of the most important priorities in the field of Justice and Home Affairs and that this system should be build on the principle of providing high protection standards and fair and effective procedures while at the same time preventing abuse. Our common objective is that similar cases are treated alike and result in the same outcome so that secondary migration is avoided and pull factors are eliminated. Ministers agreed that the intensive cooperation on the negotiations on the asylum package should continue.

The Salzburg Forum urges Member States, the Commission and the European Parliament to together work out an Asylum Acquis that helps people who are in real need and that also helps Member States to come to effective asylum decisions and to fight abuse. With regard to the mentioned above the Ministers expressed their will to further coordinate their positions in the field of migration and asylum at the EU level.

7. The Ministers welcomed the start of the visa dialogue with the Republic of Moldova planned on the occasion of the EU-Republic of Moldova Cooperation Council in June this year. SF ministers support reform processes in the Republic of Moldova to reach the JHA standards necessary to fulfill the criteria for visa liberalization.
8. The Ministers also welcomed the Moldavian ongoing security reform presented by the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova.
9. Evaluating the Salzburg Forum Working Groups, the Ministers took note of the declaration of the Salzburg Forum Working Group on **witness protection** in High Tatras, 14 - 15 April 2010. They supported the working group to continue in its activities, as they proved to be very useful. They appealed to further discuss the possibility of preparing a multilateral agreement in field of witness protection as specified in the aforementioned declaration.
10. The Ministers stressed, that enhanced cooperation in the European Union as regards the cross-border enforcement of road traffic fines is an important and effective way of preventing and reducing accidents, deaths and injuries. Therefore ministers support the forthcoming Hungarian Presidency in its objectives at EU level in this respect. In the same time, the Salzburg Forum ministers invite experts to explore the possibility of preparation of a framework agreement, taking into account the development at the EU level.
11. The Ministers took note also of the expert proposals resulting from the workshop on the economy crisis and its implications on police work and supported the follow-up of this initiative in the form of a High Level Expert Conference to be held in Hungary, in autumn this year.
12. The Ministers welcomed the information of the Slovenian delegation on the plans and priorities of the Slovenian presidency in the second half of 2010.

Bratislava, 13 May 2010