

# **Salzburg Forum Vienna Process Ministerial Conference**

**Vienna, Austria**

**12/13 April 2018**

## **DECLARATION**

We, the Interior Ministers, Deputy Ministers and/or representatives of Slovakia, Malta, Estonia, Bulgaria, Austria, Romania, Finland, Croatia, Germany, Portugal, Slovenia, France and the Czech Republic, as holders of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union from the second half of 2016 up to and including the second half of 2022, as well as the Interior Minister of Hungary and Deputy Interior Minister of Poland as further members of the Salzburg Forum in the presence of representatives of the European Commission, EASO, FRONTEX, EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator and ICMPD,

CONSIDERING complex medium-term challenges, such as irregular migration, sustainable asylum policy, extremism or challenges related to the digital world that can only be addressed to a sufficiently comprehensive extent and in a lasting manner within the framework of more than one Trio presidency,

AWARE of current and emerging security challenges and opportunities, for instance in the EU neighbourhood and beyond, as a result of the possible consequences of BREXIT, in view of the forthcoming negotiations between the European Parliament and the Council on the future Multiannual Financial Framework and in view of upcoming elections, in particular the elections for the European Parliament,

WISHING to enhance the cooperation between the participating partners and the EU Member States in the interest of citizen-focussed solutions,

COMMITTED to building bridges between EU Member States, EU institutions and national authorities as well as between the EU and third countries,

INTENDING to achieve immediate and effective improvements for our citizens,

AIMING to thereby strengthen the European Union's overall capacity to act and to contribute to promoting the effectiveness and sustainability of its policies,

Have expressed their readiness to cooperate closely within the framework of the "Vienna Process" focusing on the following:

We shall work towards an EU Security Union that is as citizen-focussed, crisis-resistant and future-oriented as possible, jointly with the European Commission, EU agencies and other relevant partners, including experts from academia and civil society.

To this end, and in line with the content of the Treaties and the competences of the Member States, initial five key challenges have been identified on which the cooperation shall be intensified between the partners in a future-oriented manner, seeking jointly to:

1. Strengthen the EU's external border protection
2. Develop a crisis-resistant EU asylum system
3. Remove the breeding ground for violent extremism and terrorism
4. Strengthen European police cooperation, with a particular focus inter alia on fighting human trafficking and migrant smuggling as well as promoting Community Policing
5. Safeguard digital security.

At the same time, under the same conditions, we will deepen and intensify cooperation on essential cross-cutting themes to increase resilience in our societies and beyond, seeking in particular to:

- Promote and protect European values
- Foster integrity in the EU and in its Member States (state, administration, society)
- Strengthen cooperation with third countries
- Strengthen cooperation with respect to internal and external security.

In view of its upcoming presidency of the Council of the European Union, Austria will thus - 20 years after the adoption of the "Vienna Action Plan" and building upon the architecture of internal security as well as the "Partnership for Security" with third countries established during the Austrian EU Council Presidency in 2006 – develop, in close coordination with past and future Presidencies spanning from 2016 to 2022 a "Vienna Programme" with a view to defining key elements and the way forward towards a citizen-focussed, crisis-resistant and future-oriented EU Security Union.