

# Joint Declaration

Salzburg, July 25-27, 2002

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Guided by the importance of an integrated management of the external borders of the Member States of the European Union, the Ministers of Interior who have come together at the Forum Salzburg in the presence of EU Commissioner Vitorino have agreed as follows:

Aware of the resolutions of the Justice and Home Affairs Council of 13 June 2002 in Luxembourg and of the European Council of 21 June 2002 in Sevilla on the establishment of an integrated border management,

considering the whole plan to fight illegal immigration and trafficking in human beings in the European Union,

the message of the commission titled "Towards integrated management of the external borders of the Member States of the European Union",

the feasibility study which was drawn up under the responsibility of Italy as well as the study "police and border security" which was elaborated in the framework of the co-ordination programme OISIN by Austria, Finland and Belgium, and the plan for border protection at the external borders of the Member States adopted on the basis of the three above mentioned initiatives and

bearing in mind the Joint Declaration in the framework of the Forum Salzburg of 27 July 2001 on an enhanced co-operation in the fields of law enforcement, border control, combating illegal migration matters and alien smuggling, asylum matters and exchange of opinions in EU matters,

the Ministers of Interior of the Republic of Austria, the Czech Republic, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Poland, the Slovak Republic and the Republic of Slovenia who have come together in the framework of the Forum Salzburg 2002 make the following declaration in the presence of the EU Commissioner Vitorino:

Recognising the fact that the protection of the European external borders is a crucial element in the fight against illegal migration and trafficking in human beings, the Ministers of Interior taking part in the Forum Salzburg declare autonomously their intention, in the interest of the regional security and in the spirit of a future membership to the European Union, immediately start to implement the measures contained in the decisions of the Justice and Home Affairs Council of 13 June 2002 in Luxembourg as well as of the European Council of 21 June 2002 in Seville.

To this end the following is planned:

- A strategic exchange of data on asylum matters and migration on a regular basis
- An analysis of these data and measures which are concerted to these results every four months

- Establishment of national contact points dealing with questions of border protection
- Network of expert offices for forged documents
- Exchange of experts between border checkpoints
- Joint risk analysis
- Elaboration of a joint basic curriculum for the training of Border Guard Officials and the development of further training programmes for members of the middle management.
- The above mentioned measures will be decided on expert level, as well as a road map for the implementation.

By carrying out these early measures the partners of the Forum Salzburg intend to co-ordinate the countries of Central Europe in order to enhance cooperation in the spirit of the principles of the European Union and to create an area of freedom, security and justice.

**Salzburg, 26 July 2002**

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