

Meeting of Ministers of the Salzburg Forum
12 – 13 July 2007
Innsbruck

Joint Declaration

On the occasion of their meeting on 12 – 13 July 2007 in Innsbruck, the Ministers of the Salzburg Forum in the presence of the President of the Council of Justice and Home Affairs Rui Carlos Pereira and the Vice-President of the European Commission Franco Frattini adopted the following conclusions:

Schengen Enlargement and Establishment of a “Central European Operational Network” (CEON)

1. The Ministers of the Salzburg Forum recall the conclusions of the European Council of 21/22 June 2007, which encourage the Member States to meet all the requirements for the lifting of controls at the land and sea borders by the end of December 2007 and at air borders by March 2008 at the latest, provided all requirements for applying the Schengen acquis have been fulfilled. The Ministers welcome the forthcoming Schengen Enlargement and the resulting strengthening of cross-border police cooperation as a major opportunity for the enhancement of freedom and security within the European Union. Together, they will contribute towards making the forthcoming Schengen enlargement a success and support Bulgaria and Romania in their efforts to reach the Schengen standards as soon as possible.
2. Having in mind that the SISone4all project should be completed by August 2007, the Ministers call upon the Member States to take all appropriate measures for proper implementation of it in accordance with the roadmap.
3. Taking into account the necessity to provide the EU citizens with a clear signal that they can fully enjoy security and the Community right of free movement, the Ministers of the Salzburg Forum participating in the SISone4all project are ready to make highest efforts to lift controls at all internal borders as mentioned above.
4. The Salzburg Forum members cooperate closely in the preparation and implementation of the forthcoming Schengen Enlargement. They inform each other on the results

achieved as well as the remaining need for action, and they try to coordinate their positions as far as possible.

5. The Ministers agree to take coordinated measures in the field of public relations with a view to providing their citizens with the best possible information on the challenges and advantages of Schengen Enlargement.
6. Building on their established practice of close political and operational cooperation, the members of the Salzburg Forum agree to work towards a "Central European Operational Network". If possible and expedient, such cooperation can be extended to countries in the neighbourhood of the Salzburg Forum states in an appropriate form.
7. The Ministers concerned agree, notwithstanding the already achieved high level of police cooperation among the Forums Salzburg states, to develop comprehensive and coordinated security concepts for border areas for the time after the abolishment of border controls, subject to the consistent application of the common forms of operation provided for on the basis of the existing bilateral agreements and EU legislation including the Prüm Decision. Important measures of cooperation are specified below:
 - Joint patrols in border areas in accordance with the bilaterally established operational needs;
 - Gradual development of the joint contact offices into comprehensive police cooperation centres (Common Centres);
 - Examination of the possibility of establishing a network of Common Centres, also including other states;
 - Examination of the possibility of creating a common, multilateral legal framework for cross-border cooperation in police and criminal matters;
 - Mutual support for the full implementation and application of the Prüm Decision.
8. Subject to coordination by FRONTEX and using EU financing mechanisms, the Salzburg Forum states participate in joint actions, including the secondment of liaison officers in order to secure the external borders to fight organised crime, trafficking in human beings

and illegal migration. In this regard, they intensify the exchange of information and coordinate their positions within FRONTEX.

9. The members of the Salzburg Forum promote the further development of the common area of freedom, security and justice. They welcome the decision taken at the EU level to incorporate the core provisions of the Prüm Treaty into the EU legal framework and intend to cooperate closely in the relevant implementation efforts.

EURO 2008 Football Championship

10. In view of the forthcoming EURO 2008 Football Championship and its implications for security in the heart of Europe, the members of the Salzburg Forum cooperate closely in the preparation and implementation of security measures in the context of the world's third-largest sports event. The main areas of cooperation include the following:
 - Controlling the movement of hooligans in accordance with the provisions of national law;
 - Accompanying and monitoring of fans;
 - Measures to supervise the transit of fans;
 - Information exchange and drawing up of coordinated situation reports and strategies;
 - Secondment of staff to support the Austrian police forces.
11. To specify the measures envisaged and to provide a basis for their implementation, Austria will enter into negotiations with the members of the Salzburg Forum with a view to the adoption of bilateral declarations to be signed, if possible, by the end of 2007. In this context, particular importance will be attributed to the existing good cooperation, based on mutual trust, to prevent terrorist attacks during the Football Championship.

European Home Affairs Policy after 2010

12. The Salzburg Forum members welcome the work initiated by the German Presidency on a post-Hague-Programme European home affairs policy within the framework of the so-called Future Group. They intend to contribute to this process, especially during the EU Presidencies of Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Hungary, in the drafting and implementation of this policy. The following topics are considered important:

- Continued work on a comprehensive and balanced policy in the fields of migration and integration, with a special emphasis on measures to combat illegal migration and promote the integration of persons with a migration background legally residing in the EU;
- Working towards the establishment of a fully operational Common European Asylum System;
- Continuous strengthening the capacity of FRONTEX, the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union, and modernisation of the European border and visa management system;
- Extension of the European system of information exchange beyond the framework provided for by the Prüm Treaty and step-by-step development of forms of joint police operation within the European Union. In this regard a seminar to be organised by the future Slovenian EU Presidency and Austria is welcomed;
- Further improvement of the operational and administrative functioning of Europol;
- Development of a comprehensive concept comprising measures of intercultural dialogue within the EU and with third countries as well as measures against radicalisation and recruitment;
- A stronger emphasis on considerations of internal security within the framework of EU external relations and in follow-up activities to the European Security Strategy.

Activities of the Salzburg Forum

13. Relations with third countries are an integral part of cooperation within the framework of the Salzburg Forum. The document prepared by Austria during its Presidency is welcomed and provides a good basis for the further development of these external relations. The setting up of a group of Friends of the Salzburg Forum as a platform for close cooperation with third countries, e.g. the Western Balkan countries and the Black Sea Region was agreed upon.

14. The Ministers take note of the Expert Meetings held during the Austrian Presidency and welcome their recommendations (see annex I).

15. The Ministers of the Salzburg Forum welcome the programme of the Bulgarian Presidency (see annex II).

Innsbruck, 13 July 2007

for the Republic of Austria:



for the Czech Republic:



for the Republic of Poland:



for the Slovak Republic:



for the Republic of Bulgaria:



for the Republic of Hungary:



for the Republic of Romania:



for the Republic of Slovenia:



Meeting of the Police Chiefs of the Salzburg Forum
21–22 February 2007, Vienna

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

On 21 and 22 February 2007, the Police Chiefs of all Salzburg Forum Member States and Croatia as observer country met in Vienna to discuss future police cooperation in the light of the next round of Schengen enlargement and to set-up the Central European Operational Network.

Main topics of this meeting were the future Schengen enlargement, an evaluation of existing bi- and multilateral agreements within the Salzburg Forum, the European Football Championship Euro 2008, the evaluation and further development of the Salzburg Forum working groups and current developments in European police cooperation.

All Police Chiefs agreed **to enhance police cooperation** within the Salzburg Forum to jointly face today's challenges and threats in the area of internal security. Discussing the **Schengen enlargement**, the Salzburg Forum partners agreed on mutual assistance for the Schengen evaluation and accession of the new EU Member States.

The Austrian chairmanship recently evaluated currently existing **bi- and multilateral agreements** of the Salzburg Partners. The Police Chiefs discussed the results of this evaluation and recommend improving police cooperation on the basis of EU law and existing bi- and multilateral agreements. Concrete actions of this improved cooperation will be

- the use of joint patrols;
- the further development of focal point offices and
- the establishment of a network of focal point offices.

For the preparation and implementation of the **Euro 2008**, enhanced police cooperation within the Salzburg Forum is of great importance to ensure security for games, side events and the public. Therefore, the Police Chiefs welcome the establishment of a Salzburg Forum working group on major events which will be chaired by Austria.

Evaluation and further development of the Salzburg Forum working groups

The working group on DNA data exchange presented its recommendations of the Expert Meeting on the implementation of the Prüm Treaty and DNA data exchange, which took place on 18 and 19 January 2007 in Vienna. The Police Chiefs welcomed these recommendations and proposed an enhanced cooperation in this important operational field.

The Police Chiefs also evaluated the other Salzburg Forum working groups in the field of police cooperation and proposed to further develop and optimize them:

- The existing working group on witness protection should improve their cooperation in order to set-up an operational network and should focus on the impact of biometrics on the documents used in the course of undercover operations and witness protection programmes.
- Police Chiefs are well aware of the great importance of mutual cooperation of police forces in the field of traffic security and harmonized control activities.
- The working group on Schengen enlargement should focus their future activities on coordination measures concerning works within the existing EU structure. This should avoid duplications of the works of the Salzburg Forum and within the EU structure and should help to develop strong operational networks within the Salzburg Forum.

Finally, it was agreed that the Police Chiefs will meet once a year to discuss future developments and to evaluate police cooperation within the Salzburg Forum.

Expert Meeting of the Salzburg Forum on the Implementation of the Prüm Treaty and DNA Data Exchange

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

At the Ministerial Conference in Bratislava in May 2006, the ministers of the Salzburg Forum countries agreed upon to set up a working group on DNA data exchange. As agreed, the working group is chaired by Austria and will meet on a regular basis to discuss challenges and recent developments in the area of DNA data exchange.

In its capacity as Salzburg Forum Presidency, Austria hosted an expert conference on the implementation of the Prüm Treaty and DNA data exchange. This expert conference discussed the Prüm Treaty in general and focused on the field of DNA data exchange in specific. At the same time, the expert conference was the first meeting of the working group on DNA data exchange.

Participants of this expert conference were experts from all Salzburg Forum partner countries. Croatia attended the expert conference as observer. The expert conference took place on 18 and 19 January 2007 in Vienna.

The experts of the Salzburg Forum countries recommended

- a close cooperation in the field of DNA data exchange among all Salzburg Forum countries;
- mutual assistance in setting up, running and further developing national DNA data bases;
- all Salzburg Forum countries should examine the option to accede to the Prüm Treaty;
- all Salzburg Forum countries should actively contribute to the discussion on bringing the Prüm Treaty into the legal framework of the EU and
- to continue the discussion on DNA data exchange and on all other forms of police cooperation within the framework of the Prüm Treaty in all bodies of the Salzburg Forum.

The experts welcomed the Austrian offer to support the other countries of the Salzburg Forum in the field of DNA data exchange.

The next meeting of the working group on DNA data exchange will take place in autumn 2007.

SALZBURG FORUM
3rd MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
INFORMATION (COI)

Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic
(Secretariat of the SF COI Working Group)

Brussels, 26 March 2007

Conclusions

Third meeting of the COI Expert Working Group of Salzburg Forum was organised by the Czech Republic (Department for Asylum and Migration Policy), acting as the secretariat of the Working Group, on 26 March 2007 in Brussels. The meeting was attended by representatives of COI units of asylum/migration offices from Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Besides the exchange of practical information on COI tasks and concerns of respective COI units, the role of the Working Group in relation to other fora dealing with COI such as EURASIL and GDISC as well as relevant areas of cooperation were discussed. Austria, Poland and Slovenia provided brief information on their COI cooperation including information on past fact finding mission to Kosovo and upcoming report on Chechnya. Austria informed about a planned fact finding mission to Armenia and Georgia.

Main topics of discussion included:

- Information on new development and new task of COI units since the last Working Group meeting in 2005
- Information on top asylum source countries with regard to COI (numbers x demand for COI)
- COI databases and their content
- COI activities & projects at the EU level
- COI products quality control
- Exchange of asylum statistical data

Members of the Working Group agreed that operational cooperation on bilateral basis making use of COI experts contact list was considered the best way of cooperation within this forum. Bearing in mind various activities dealing with COI issues taking place at the EU level, however, common issues to be better addressed within informal SF COI Working Group were identified. Thus it was agreed that the Working Group will be convened once a year for a half-day meeting organized by the WG Secretariat in the afternoon before a EURASIL plenary meeting. This will provide adequate space for exchange of information of particular concern to WG member states. As a part of the Working Group activities its Secretariat will ensure maintaining of an updated Working Group national contact points list as well as a contact list of COI experts of respective national COI units.

MEETING OF THE SALZBURG FORUM WORKING GROUP ON TRAFFIC POLICE

18-19 APRIL 2007, RUST

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Salzburg Forum working group on traffic police met on 18 and 19 April 2007 in Rust, Austria, to discuss current challenges and future cooperation in the area of traffic police. The meeting's main topics were the implementation of the Control Directive 2006/22/EC, the entering into force of the EC Regulation on Traffic 561/2006 and a presentation of the Austrian traffic sector measures regarding the European Football Championship EURO 2008.

Furthermore, the working group discussed results and cognitions of the job shadowing of traffic control which took place on 21 March 2007 on several locations in Austria.

The Salzburg Forum delegates of the working group concluded that there is need for further cooperation to enhance road safety in Europe. To implement this objective, the working group recommends

- to make use of the experiences gained at this meeting to implement national legal measures concerning the Control Directive;
- to make use of the Salzburg Forum experiences on Control Directive implementation measures to define statements issued to the Commission's Committee;
- to cooperate in the light of the European Championship EURO 2008 by using occasion related transfer of situation assessments on traffic flows and
- to continue the Salzburg Forum working group on traffic police, focussing on various issues of crucial importance.

MEETING OF THE SALZBURG FORUM WORKING GROUP ON WITNESS PROTECTION

31 MAY – 1 JUNE 2007, VIENNA

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Salzburg Forum working group on witness protection met on 31 May and 1 June 2007 in Vienna to discuss current challenges and future cooperation in the area of witness protection. The meeting's main topics were the use of personal documents containing biometric data including travel documents for witnesses, and the development of biometric identification systems, as well as general operational cooperation on a bilateral basis.

The Salzburg Forum delegates of the working group concluded that there is need for further coordination and exchange of experiences within the group. Nevertheless, operational work **must continue on a bilateral basis** to ensure the highest possible protection of witnesses. **There is absolutely no other alternative to this approach.**

The experts appreciate the implementation of biometric travel documents to increase border security. **However, when implementing biometric travel documents, special provisions and technical, operational and legislative solutions for witnesses were not taken into account.**

To face these challenges, the working group recommends

- to create special provisions and search for complex solutions on EU level to ensure the highest possible protection for witnesses and their handlers in international relocation and movement of persons;
- to continue operational cooperation on a bilateral basis;
- to use Europol's support for training and seminars in the area of witness protection.

Finally, it was agreed that the working group on witness protection will meet annually to discuss future developments and to coordinate strategic actions.

MEETING OF THE SALZBURG FORUM WORKING GROUP ON MAJOR EVENTS

13-14 JUNE 2007, VIENNA

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Salzburg Forum working group on major events met on 13 and 14 June 2007 in Vienna to discuss current challenges and future cooperation in this area. The meeting's main topics were preparations for and implementation of the European Football Championship Euro 2008.

The working group discussed results of the first preparatory conference for the Euro 2008 and changes in the EU handbook as well as the use of the Prüm Treaty for the implementation of major events.

The Salzburg Forum delegates of the working group concluded that there is need for further cooperation to jointly face the challenges for police work on major events.

To implement this objective, the working group recommends

- to use the Salzburg Forum working group on major events for the preparation of the Euro 2008;
- to coordinate national and joint police actions for the Euro 2008 and
- to make use of the experiences gained from the Euro 2008 for future major events.

The experts welcomed the establishment of this working group under the Austrian Presidency of the Salzburg Forum. The next meeting of the working group will take place in winter 2007/2008.

Priorities of the Bulgarian of Presidency of the Salzburg Forum

July – December 2007

As a Chair of the Salzburg Group the Republic of Bulgaria will work for enhancement of the forum as a regional mechanism for exchange of experience and coordination of positions on important and complex issues in the field of Home Affairs within EU for promoting common interests.

The Bulgarian Presidency will focus on further strengthening of police cooperation between the participating states in the forum.

Special attention will be paid on the development of the “external dimension” of the Salzburg Forum and in particular on strengthening the cooperation with the Western Balkan states.

1. Enhancing the exchange of experience and coordination of positions in the field of Home Affairs

The Republic of Bulgaria appreciates the opportunity for exchange of opinions in the process of discussing and identifying acceptable positions for the Salzburg Forum countries in the field of Home Affairs. The implementation of the mechanism will continue. The meetings of the JHA Counselors in Brussels before the meetings of the Justice and Home Affairs Council will continue as well as the meetings of the Article 36 Committee (CATS) and the Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum (SCIFA). If needed, experts from the capitals will be also invited.

2. Strengthening police cooperation

The Bulgarian Presidency will work for further deepening the exchange of expert experience and strengthening police cooperation between the countries from the Forum Salzburg, in particular for the spread and implementation of the ideas of the Prüm Treaty.

Taking into consideration the existing political will concerning the importance of the introduction of a qualitatively new instrument for stepping up cooperation in the fight against terrorism, transborder crime and illegal migration, the Bulgarian Presidency will strive to contribute to faster adoption of an EU Council Decision, incorporating major regulations of the Prüm Treaty within the EU legal framework.

With a view to enhancing the in-depth knowledge of the provisions of the Prüm Treaty and the opportunities for strengthening the cooperation in this field, the main expert meeting will be dedicated to the exchange of DNA data. At the

same time the first discussion on the exchange of fingerprints data will be launched within the framework of this group.

Meetings of the working groups on Traffic Police and Security of Major Events will be also held.

3. Development of the “external relation” of the Salzburg Forum and strengthening the cooperation with the Western Balkan countries

The Bulgarian Presidency will focus its efforts on strengthening the cooperation with the Western Balkan countries in view of increasing the level of security, the stabilization of the region and support for the countries from the Western Balkans on their way to EU membership.

The Ministerial conference in the framework of the Bulgarian Presidency will be organized in two formats. Ministers of Interior of the Western Balkan countries will be invited to participate in the extended format (the second day) of the conference.

The focus will be placed on encouraging targeted cooperation in the prevention and fight against transborder organized crime, which will lead to actual results and concrete pragmatic solutions.

The Western Balkan countries will be offered intensified exchange of experience and information on key issues of common interest and, if considered necessary and useful for the work, development and implementation of joint action plans.

The range of issues will include:

- on the one side, topics related to European integration (border control/integrated border management, migration, transborder police cooperation, fight against narcotic substances, personal data protection, security of identity documents) and on the other side
- issues related to improving the work on prevention and countering concrete groups of crime (trafficking in human beings, drugs and arms, counterfeiting of bank notes and documents, money laundering) and

will be open for additional proposals and amendments.

The Bulgarian Presidency considers that a suitable form to foster cooperation is to organize working groups/workshops (for example, one per each Presidency) in a flexible format and nature. The agenda, the level of participation (political or expert) and other modalities will be specified for each meeting depending on the specificity of the issues to be discussed.

At the same time, if there is interest and resources, the exchange of information and experience on the identified issues may continue also beyond the respective working group in a format agreed by the countries.

Last but not least, opportunities may be examined for joint participation of the Forum Salzburg countries in projects of the European Commission to be implemented in the Western Balkan states.

Bulgaria is ready within the framework of its Presidency to organize the first working group on some of the identified topics of common interest. For exchange and sharing of experience within the working group, representatives of Western Balkan countries and representatives of the Forum Salzburg countries will be invited.

Program
of the Bulgaria Presidency of the Salzburg Group
July – December 2007

The Ministerial Conference of the Forum Salzburg states will take place on 20 and 21 September in the Republic of Bulgaria.

It is envisaged that the meeting will be organized in two formats – during the first day there will be discussions among the FS ministers and on the second day, the ministers of the Interior of the countries from Western Balkans will join.

The Ministerial Meeting will be preceded by a preparatory one, of the heads/directors of the international cooperation departments which is planned to be held on 4/5 September 2007.

The Bulgarian Presidency will organize the following expert meetings:

- Meeting of the Working Group on DNA and fingerprints data exchange (in the light of the implementation of the Prüm Treaty) - 8/9 October in Sofia
- Meeting of the Working group on Traffic Police - 22/23 October in Sofia
- Meeting of the Working group on Major Events, 14/25 November in Sofia

Bulgarian Presidency is also ready to host a working group comprising experts of the Forum Salzburg states and the Western Balkan countries on a topic, identified within the framework of the Ministerial Conference.