



Council of the European Union

PRESS
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BACKGROUND¹
Brussels, 2 October 2020

VIDEOCONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF HOME AFFAIRS

Thursday 8 October

The videoconference will be chaired by **Horst Seehofer**, German Federal Minister of the Interior, Building and Community.

Ministers will discuss the recent Commission proposals for a **pact on migration and asylum**.

Ministers will then take stock of the latest developments and initiatives to **engage with third countries on migration**, in particular regarding North Africa and the Western Balkans.

Finally, ministers will discuss the development of a strategic **European police partnership** to bring new impetus to police cooperation at EU level.

A **press conference** will take place at the end of the meeting **(+/-13.00)**

[*Justice and Home Affairs Council, 9 October 2020 meeting page*](#)

[*Press conferences and public events by video streaming*](#)

[*Video coverage in broadcast quality \(MPEG4\) and photo gallery*](#)

¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

HOME AFFAIRS

Pact on migration and asylum

Home affairs ministers will meet via videoconference to discuss the recent Commission proposals for a pact on migration and asylum. Following a presentation of the proposals by the Commission, ministers will exchange views on the way forward.

On 23 September, the European Commission put forward a number of legislative and non-legislative proposals on various aspects of migration and asylum policy, including internal and external dimensions and border management.

The legislative proposals include:

- an **asylum and migration management regulation**, establishing a common framework for migration management, criteria for examining asylum applications and a solidarity mechanism
- a **crisis and force majeure regulation**, which provides for specific derogations and establishes a solidarity mechanism to be used in the event of crisis and force majeure situations
- a **screening regulation** to ensure that the procedure applicable to a particular person entering the EU irregularly is identified quickly
- a proposal revising the **asylum procedures proposal** of 2016, on the border procedure, subsequent applications and the appeal process
- a proposal revising the 2016 **Eurodac proposal**, to address loopholes and transform Eurodac into an asylum and migration database.

The non-legislative texts presented by the Commission include recommendations on preparedness and crisis situations, resettlement and complementary pathways to protection and search and rescue by private vessels, as well as guidance on the facilitators directive to fight migrant smugglers.

A number of the 2016 proposals, which are at an advanced stage of negotiations, are also part of the pact. These include the EU asylum agency regulation, the reception conditions directive, the qualifications directive, the resettlement framework and the return directive.

For more information:

> [Commission proposals for a pact on migration and asylum \(press release, 23 September 2020\)](#)

Engaging with third countries on migration

Ministers will take stock of the latest developments and initiatives to engage with third countries on migration, in particular regarding North Africa and the Western Balkans.

On 22-23 July, a ministerial conference was held in Vienna on effectively combatting irregular migration along the Eastern Mediterranean route. This conference brought together representatives of several EU member states and the Western Balkans and led to a call to set up an operational platform on the Eastern Mediterranean route. The platform will take into account all existing initiatives and will serve to improve coordination between all relevant actors.

On 13 July 2020, a virtual conference took place between a number of EU member states and Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia on improving cooperation to address migrant smuggling. The participants expressed a clear commitment to preventing and combating migrant smuggling in a joint and coordinated manner. Increased efforts are being made to further operationalise cooperation in this area.

For more information:

> [Vienna Declaration on effectively combating irregular migration along the Eastern Mediterranean Route \(22-23 July 2020\)](#)

> [Press statement following the ministerial conference to counter migrant smuggling \(13 July 2020\)](#)

European police partnership

Ministers will discuss the development of a strategic European Police Partnership to bring new impetus to police cooperation at EU level. This follows an initial exchange held at the informal videoconference of home affairs ministers which took place on 7 July 2020. The partnership aims to bring together different elements including the use of new digital tools (such as artificial intelligence) as an opportunity for law enforcement, operational cooperation and cooperation with third countries.
