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OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3450th Council meeting

Justice and Home Affairs

Home Affairs

Brussels, 25 February 2016

President **Klaas Dijkhoff**
State Secretary of Security and Justice and Minister for
Immigration of the Netherlands

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- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
- Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's Internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
- Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's Internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

ITEMS DEBATED

Schengen Border Code amendment: reinforcement of checks at external borders

The Council reached a general approach on the proposed regulation to reinforce checks against relevant databases at external borders ([6310/1/16 REV 1](#)).

On the basis of this mandate, the Netherlands presidency will start negotiations with the European Parliament as soon as the latter has adopted its position.

[For details see press release.](#)

European Border and Coast Guard

The Council was briefed by the presidency on the state of play on the proposed regulation establishing a European Border and Coast Guard ([6309/16](#)). It is the presidency's intention to reach a political agreement before the end of its term, as requested by the last European Council.

This proposal, which is part of the Borders legislative package, was submitted by the Commission on 15 December 2015. The aim is to set up a European Border and Coast Guard which would consist of the European Border Agency (replacing Frontex) and national authorities responsible for border management.

The primary objective of the European Border and Coast Guard would be to ensure and implement, as a shared responsibility, the European integrated border management system at the external borders with a view to managing migration effectively and ensuring a high level of security within the EU, while safeguarding free movement within the EU.

The proposal consists of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (which would replace Frontex) and national authorities responsible for border management, including coast guards to the extent that they carry out border control tasks, with a shared responsibility for the security and protection of the EU's external borders.

Migration

The Council discussed the current migratory situation, including monitoring the implementation of the measures already agreed at recent meetings of the European Council and Council.

Particular attention was devoted to current developments on the Western Balkans route. A working breakfast took place in the margins of the Council with those member states most concerned and the ministers of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia. The Council examined measures to prepare for the possible humanitarian consequences of the unilateral adoption of border measures. The Commission, which is currently assessing humanitarian needs, was invited to report on this issue, and on the measures taken, to the JHA Council at its next meeting on 10-11 March 2016.

Over lunch, ministers discussed the cooperation with Turkey in the presence of the Turkish Deputy Minister for the Interior.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Belarus sanctions

The Council decided not to prolong restrictive measures for 170 people and three companies whose listings were already suspended. But it extended the existing measures by one year, including an arms embargo on Belarus and an asset freeze and travel ban against four people listed in connection with the unresolved disappearances of two opposition politicians, one businessman and one journalist.

[For details see press release](#)

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Liquid assets

The Council decided not to object to a Commission regulation on derogations concerning currencies with constraints on the availability of liquid assets ([6344/16](#) + [5759/16](#)).

Adoption of the regulation, which supplements regulation 575/2013, follows the submission of draft standards by the European Banking Authority.

The derogations provide that the denomination of liquid assets may be inconsistent with the distribution by currency of net outflows, and/or that liquid assets may be substituted by credit lines from the central bank. They are intended to address the inherent difficulties that banks face in meeting their liquidity coverage requirement in currencies where it is not possible to reduce, by sound liquidity management, the resultant need for liquid assets and given the holdings of those assets by other market participants.

The regulation is a delegated act pursuant to article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. It can now enter into force, unless the European Parliament objects.

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

EASO - Switzerland

The Council adopted a decision ([18079/13](#)) on the conclusion of the arrangement ([18078/13](#)) between the European Union and the Swiss Confederation on the modalities of its participation in the European Asylum Support Office.
