

## Media Advisory

# Informal meeting of justice and home affairs ministers

**July 6-7, 2017**

On Thursday 6 and Friday 7 July, the **informal meeting of the ministers of justice and home affairs** will be held at the Tallinn Creative Hub, Kultuurikatel. Over two days, ministers will focus their discussions on the security and safety of Europe, as this is the main concern of people today – more so than any other issue. It is crucial for the European Union to find the right balance between safeguarding people's rights and freedoms and ensuring their safety.

### **Thursday, 6 July**

**Informal meeting of ministers for home affairs, chaired by Mr. Andres Anvelt (Estonian minister of the interior)**

08.30–09.00 Arrivals and doorstep at the Tallinn Creative Hub, Kultuurikatel

09.00 Tour de table (photo opportunity)

09.00–10.30 Session I: Migration

*In this session two interlinked issues are addressed. Firstly, the ministers are invited to share their views on how to continue discussions on the application of responsibility and solidarity in the common migration management system. After that, the discussion will be focused on return policy as one of the key pillars of a comprehensive migration management system. The ministers will discuss possible measures to improve the return of irregular migrants from the Schengen area to their home countries, in order to reduce overall migration to the EU.*

10.30–11.00 Coffee break

11.00–12.30 Session II: Migration (continues)

12.30–13.00 Family photo



13.00–14.30 Working lunch on Ukraine

*The working lunch will be dedicated to safeguarding EU's internal security through cooperation with our neighbours, with a particular focus on the situation in Ukraine. The ministers will discuss whether the actions of the EU and its member states could be coordinated better. Another angle of the lunch discussion will be how to further enhance cooperation with Ukraine in the field of internal security.*

### **Joint informal meeting of ministers for justice and home affairs**

14.00 Arrivals and doorstep and informal gathering of Ministers for Justice

15.00 Tour de table (photo opportunity)

15.00–17.00 Session III: Interoperability

*Ministers will discuss how EU databases in the areas of security, border and migration management, and criminal justice could be made interoperable, so as to make the best possible use of all the available information. The overall aim would potentially be to deliver better security and safety to EU citizens. Another area to be discussed is whether the role of eu-LISA should be strengthened in regard to research and development, so that technological innovation could be introduced more quickly, while increasing the value for end users, improving data protection and reducing costs.*

17.00–17.30 Press conference (home affairs)

## **Friday, 7 July**

### **Joint informal meeting of ministers for justice and home affairs**

08.30–09.00 Arrivals and doorstep at the Tallinn Creative Hub, Kultuurikatel

09.00–10.30 Session IV: Data retention

*Ministers will exchange views on possible options for data retention for the purpose of prevention and prosecution of crime.*

10.30–11.00 Coffee break



**Informal meeting of ministers for justice, chaired by Mr. Urmas Reinsalu (Estonian minister of justice)**

11.00–12.00 Session V: Sale of consumer goods

*Ministers will discuss the European Commission's proposal for a directive on contracts for online and other distance sale of goods. The directive aims at promoting cross-border trade by reducing compliance costs for businesses on one hand and increasing consumer trust on the other hand. Ministers are invited to exchange views on whether the rules for online and offline sale of consumer goods should be as similar as possible and what would be needed for the rules on the sale of consumer goods to be fit for the digital age, in particular regarding the specificities of goods with embedded digital content.*

12.00–12.30 Family photo

12.30–14.00 Working lunch on the future of e-justice

*As the end of the current e-justice action plan 2014-2018 draws near, the Estonian presidency would like ministers to reflect on what has been achieved and to look ahead at the challenges involved in further developing the European area of justice. Considering the deeper integration of the EU, the increasing mobility of its citizens and the challenges posed by migration and terrorism, more efficient and secure cross-border proceedings have become even more necessary. At the same time the need for secure, sustainable and interoperable electronic information exchange tools is gaining even more importance.*

14.30–15.30 Session VI: Mutual recognition of freezing and confiscation orders

*Ministers will discuss the possibilities of improvement of existing EU legislation in the area of mutual recognition of freezing and confiscation, with the objective to make the procedures faster and more effective. Freezing and confiscation of property related to criminal activities is an efficient tool to combat financing of terrorism and other serious crime, as it prevents the infiltration of illegal assets into the legal economy. Yet due to the complicated nature of the instruments, or differences in the member states' legal systems, the cross-border freezing and confiscation of assets is not widely used.*

15.30–16.00 Press conference (justice)





## Eastern Partnership justice and home affairs ministers' meeting

16.30–17.00 Arrivals and doorstep

17.00 Tour de table (photo opportunity)

17.00–19.30 Informal EU-Eastern Partnership ministerial meeting

*On 24 November 2017, the fifth Eastern Partnership summit will take place in Brussels during the Estonian presidency of the Council of the EU. With a view to bringing political impetus to the upcoming summit, ministers are invited to discuss two key issues: firstly, coordination and cooperation in the fight against organised crime, specifically cybercrime, and secondly cooperation in the fight against corruption, specifically prevention through e-solutions and tracing the financial flow.*

19.30–19.45 Family photo

## Accreditation

Please accredit yourself through the presidency website accreditation portal: <https://www.eu2017.ee/accreditation>

After selecting your preferred meetings, you will receive an accreditation confirmation via email, which must be presented with your ID at the accreditation desk in the press centre, when collecting up your badge.

We recommend registering for accreditation as soon as possible. The possibilities for last-minute accreditations are limited and could include delays.

Accreditation badges can be collected at the press centre of the Tallinn Creative Hub (Kultuurikatel) as of 07.00 on 5 July.





## Arrival and departure

You are kindly asked to organize your own transport to and from the Tallinn International Airport. A taxi stand can be found just outside the arrivals hall. The fare from the airport to the city centre is between 5 € and 10 €.

## Venue

**The informal meeting of the ministers of justice and home affairs** will be held at the Tallinn Creative Hub, Kultuurikatel (Põhja pst 27a, Tallinn). Kultuurikatel is the venue where all ministerial meetings during the Estonian presidency of the EU Council will be held. Historically it used to be the Tallinn city central power station, which began operating in 1913 and closed in 1979. Nowadays it is a creative centre hosting a variety of cultural events and activities focusing on the creative industry.

## Further information

Accreditation: [media.accreditation@eu2017.ee](mailto:media.accreditation@eu2017.ee)

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## General information about Estonia and Tallinn

For more information on attractions and sights in Tallinn and Estonia please go to:

- <https://www.visittallinn.ee/eng>
- <https://visitestonia.com/en>

