



Council of the European Union

PRESS
EN

BACKGROUND*

Brussels, 12 September 2017

JUSTICE and HOME AFFAIRS COUNCIL **Thursday 14 September in Brussels**

The meeting will be chaired by **Andres Anvelt**, Estonian Minister of the Interior.

Following recent terrorist attacks in Europe, ministers will discuss priority areas for action on **counter-terrorism** in the coming months.

Ministers will discuss the state of play and next steps regarding **migration policy**. They are expected to cover several aspects including the response to the migratory flows in the Central Mediterranean, the return of irregular migrants, the continued implementation of the EU-Turkey statement, relocation and the ongoing work on the concept of 'safe third countries'.

Under any other business, the Commission is expected to inform ministers on the **EU-Canada PNR agreement**, following the opinion issued by the European Court of Justice on 26 July 2017.

Press conferences:

- **Home Affairs Council** (+/- 13:00)

Press conferences and public events by video streaming: <http://video.consilium.europa.eu>

Video coverage in broadcast quality (MPEG4) and photo gallery on:

<https://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu/permalink/98314>

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

HOME AFFAIRS

Migration policy

Ministers will discuss the state of play and next steps regarding migration. They will take stock of events over the summer, including the decrease in arrivals in the Central Mediterranean, and focus on a number of issues where action is needed at EU level.

They are expected to cover the comprehensive **response to the migratory flows in the Central Mediterranean**. This includes providing training for the Libyan Coast Guard, supporting border controls in southern Libya, Niger and Chad, improving the socio-economic situation of local communities, supporting the UNHCR and IOM in improving reception conditions for migrants in Libya and coordinating assisted voluntary returns, and stepping up voluntary resettlement efforts.

The discussion follows several steps taken over the past months. On 3 February 2017, EU leaders adopted the Malta declaration, which includes a series of measures to stem the flow of irregular migrants from Libya to Italy. In their conclusions of June 2017, EU leaders raised the need to step up coordination and delivery on all the elements agreed. On 4 July 2017, the Commission presented an action plan to step up EU action in these areas and provide further support to Italy. This plan was discussed by ministers at their informal meeting in Tallinn on 6 July 2017. It was followed up by a Presidency Implementation Plan on 26 July 2017. On 28 August, leaders from France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Libya, Niger and Chad and High Representative Federica Mogherini met to discuss further measures to stem the flow.

Home affairs ministers are also expected to discuss work on other areas, including improving the **return of irregular migrants**, the continued implementation of the **EU-Turkey statement**, **relocation**, and the contribution of experts to EU agencies.

[Finding solutions to migratory pressures \(background information\)](#)

[Infographic - Migration flows: Eastern and Central Mediterranean routes](#)

Fight against terrorism

Following recent terrorist attacks in Europe, ministers will be updated on priority areas for action in the coming months. These areas include, among others:

- prevention of **radicalisation**
- use of the **internet**, in particular cooperating with internet companies to detect and remove harmful content and enhancing positive narratives online
- **exchange of information** and **interoperability** of EU information systems
- **cooperation** between law enforcement and the military
- cross-border police cooperation, including strengthening the **ATLAS network**, an association of special police units of EU member states
- **protection of public spaces** (soft targets)
- counter-terrorism related elements of the legislative proposals for a European Travel Information and Authorisation System (**ETIAS**) and the addition of features to the Schengen information System (**SIS**)
- implementation of the EU Passenger Name Record (**PNR**) directive

[Response to foreign terrorist fighters and recent terrorist attacks in Europe \(background information\)](#)