

THE PRIORITIES OF THE ROMANIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE SALZBURG FORUM

1st SEMESTER 2018

1. Migration and asylum

- Although progress has been made in **managing the migration crisis**, the issue will remain a priority on the agenda of the RO PRES of the Salzburg Forum, given the dynamic and complex nature of this phenomenon, which always leads to firm and coordinated action.
- At the same time, one cannot talk about efficient migration management without reforming the Common European Asylum System.
- All the pieces of legislation in the SECA reform package that are currently under negotiation are equally important for preventing a migration crisis like the one in 2015.
- In this regard, RO will promote the need to identify consensual solutions that meet the objectives of all the Member States and take into account the different contributions of the Member States to the joint EU efforts.

2. Borders – Schengen

- RO maintains its objective of joining the Schengen area and hopes that it will be reached as soon as possible. RO is more than ready to join the free movement area. Romania's accession will strengthen the security of the Schengen area, will send a strong signal of European construction support and will also represent the culmination of Romania's efforts in order to implement European policies and its essential contribution to its security. We appreciate the support of the Forum MS for achieving this objective.
- RO is looking forward to the results of the full implementation of the Frontex mandate in line with the legal framework for the Border Police and Coast Guard at European level (EBCG), especially as concerns the progress made in the implementation by the MS of the resulting recommendations from the first vulnerability assessment exercise, the liaison officers' activity, or the Agency's return activities. The development of the European Integrated Border Management Strategy and the preparation of national authorities for thematic evaluations of the Commission will be, in particular, the object of the Forum's activity.
- RO supports the technical implementation process of the EES in the design and development phase and is willing to make its expertise available.
- RO aims to continue to support the Salzburg Forum also as a President, initiatives which target returning to the full functioning of the Schengen area. RO considers it important that the process of amending the Schengen Borders Code with regard to the reintroduction of internal border controls should respond to the real needs of the MS and that the solutions to be adopted should bring an added value in terms of clarity for a proper implementation and sufficient safeguards as regards the free movement of persons, while maintaining a high level of security for EU citizens.
- RO supports the rapid adoption of the Interoperability Package with the objective of identifying the best possible solutions for final users. The aim of the Forum's presidency is to jointly identify efficient solutions that ensure fast, seamless, systematic and controlled access for law enforcement and other users.

3. Internal security

- **The permanent changes to the security context** and the new challenges faced lately by the EU, noting, inter alia, the migration crisis and the increasing frequency of the terrorist attacks, require coordinated action tailored to the new realities and a unitary approach in their application.
- The cooperation between the Member States, on the one hand, and also between them and the European agencies, on the other hand, becomes the catalyst factor for the efforts made at the European level to strengthen the internal security.
- It is also necessary to ensure a good cooperation between the intelligence services and the law enforcement authorities, in relation to the competences and specificities of the two communities.
- Nevertheless, strengthening the systems' interoperability is a basic condition. A relevant example in this respect is the interoperability of the National Passenger Information Units as a determining factor in achieving the maximum potential offered by the EU PNR Directive.
- **RO will continue to support the efforts made in this respect.**