



**Indítsuk újra
Európát**

A Visegrádi Csoport
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MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF INTERIOR OF THE VISEGRÁD GROUP

Budapest, 30 June 2022

JOINT DECLARATION

The Ministers of Interior of the Visegrad Group, in the presence of the Czech Republic exceptionally in the observing role as the incoming Presidency of the Council of the EU, held a meeting on 30 June 2022 in Budapest, at the end of the Hungarian Presidency of the Visegrad Group to discuss relevant issues in the field of Home Affairs.

At the meeting, the ministers discussed the region's migration challenges, cooperation regarding the war in Ukraine and reviewed the results of the Hungarian V4 Presidency.

The Ministers of Interior of the Visegrad Group agreed on their commitment to stem illegal migration in the region, in particular in the Western Balkans, which is on the rise. It is necessary to prevent new migration crises and to counter the instrumentalization of illegal migration by other countries. The Ministers of Interior agreed on strengthening joint measures and cooperation in fight against smuggling particularly from the Western Balkans.

Ministers noted that illegal migration in the Western Balkans is a challenge not only for the frontline countries but for the European Union as a whole. The solution lies in applying a whole of the route approach, which includes tackling root causes in countries of origin, stepping up cooperation with third countries of origin and transit in the fight against smuggling and readmission, strengthening external borders and effectively implementing the return of persons who are not eligible for international protection.

Ministers agreed that new developments at the external borders of the European Union require the EU to adapt the existing legal framework to the new situation, which would ensure that Member States are able to respond effectively to the challenges ahead. Solutions that take into account the needs of the Member States concerned are needed and the V4 countries will continue to count on each other's support in this respect, as demonstrated by the success of the joint efforts to stop the inflows along the migration routes that most affect our region.

Ministers expressed their support for the swift accession of Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania to the Schengen area, which would greatly contribute to addressing the migration challenges in the Western Balkans.

Ministers condemned Russia's aggression and expressed their support to Ukraine. They agreed that the war in Ukraine poses an unprecedented challenge to the European Union, with the Member States of the Central European region bearing a significant share of the humanitarian, security and economic consequences. The prolongation of the conflict will have further long-term consequences of global significance, the V4 can count on each other in tackling these issues.

Ministers are committed to ensuring adequate protection and reception of refugees from Ukraine, in accordance with relevant EU and national law. To this end, it is essential that the European Commission ensures that appropriate EU resources are made available to the Member States managing this complex crisis. Ministers welcomed the effective cooperation in taking care of people fleeing from Ukraine.

The Ministers of Interior of the Visegrad Group reviewed the progress made during the Hungarian Presidency. They took note of the results of the high-level meetings held during the Hungarian Presidency, such as the meeting of border police directors and the meeting of disaster management directors, and other high and expert level events.

Ministers welcomed the forthcoming Slovak V4 Presidency and Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union and expressed their continued support to them.