



Budapest, Hungary
21 June 2018

VISEGRAD GROUP AND AUSTRIA SUMMIT

DECLARATION

on

"SETTING UP A MECHANISM FOR ASSISTANCE IN PROTECTING THE BORDERS OF THE WESTERN BALKAN COUNTRIES"

We, the Heads of Government of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Austria,

CONVINCED that the phenomenon of irregular migration in the Western Balkans cannot be resolved without close and comprehensive cooperation with the countries of the region,

COMMITTED to build a bridge between the Member States of the European Union and the third countries on the Western Balkans migratory route,

AWARE that migration policy must keep in mind the changed nature of migration and the threat it poses to security.

REAFFIRMING that we are working to build a cooperation that guarantees security of our citizens as much as possible, and gives immediate relief to the countries of the region.

INTENDING to strengthen cooperation in order to enhance security of citizens,

CONFIRMING our determination to be further actively engaged in stemming migratory flows in the Western Balkans route as an example of European responsibility,

We have agreed that, in order to achieve our goals, the Visegrad Group countries and Austria shall work in the following areas with the countries of the Western Balkans who are stretched to the maximum of their capacities in protecting their borders and make outstanding efforts to address the migration crisis:

- Supporting the protection of the borders of the countries on the Western Balkans migratory route by offering personnel and technical equipment to act in a timely and effective way in order to stem the inflow,
- Sharing our experience and best practices in the framework of field studies and targeted trainings,
- Intensifying the fight against trafficking and smuggling in human beings by further strengthening the possibilities of police cooperation;
- Enhancing the cooperation with the countries concerned in order to ensure the success of return operations, when possible, with the involvement of the EBCGA / Frontex,

We will provide the necessary human resources and technical support pool in order to implement targeted border policing activities with the countries of the Western Balkans. The deployment of the pool will be carried out with the coordination of the Presidency of the Visegrad Group in close cooperation with Austria, taking into account the requests and needs of the countries concerned.

Finally, we are convinced that we can achieve positive results at European level by our joint efforts made through the effective cooperation of the Visegrad Group and Austria.