

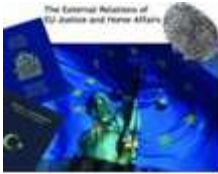


Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Sectoral Committee
Weekly Update
22.01.10

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Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

Informal meeting of JHA Ministers

An informal meeting of the JHA Ministers is currently (20-22 Jan) being held in Toledo. Following Thursday's session, the EU's ministers asked the Commission to speed up the report on new technologies (such as body scanners) which the EU may adopt in order to guarantee the the safety of air transport.

Jacques Barrot, Commissioner responsible for Justice, Freedom and Security stated that the Commission "is going to speed up its report on technologies and body scanners" and restart the project to create a common passenger name record (PNR) for Europe with "the urgency the ministers have undertaken to back this project".

Janet Napolitano, the United States Secretary of Homeland Security was also present at the meeting; as a result a joint EU-United States declaration was signed in order to strengthen international air safety measures and standards and to open a "global dialogue for the safety of international travel".

The afternoon session tackled the need for establishing a common policy and control system for borders that encourages legal immigration and curtails illegal immigration. Another central theme of this session was that of approving a common strategy to integrate immigrants.

This meeting was attended by the EU Ministers of Home Affairs, Justice and Immigration; representatives from the candidate countries (Macedonia, Croatia and Turkey); the countries associated under Schengen (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland); as well as representatives from the major European organisations in this field, such as Frontex and Europol.



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

18 month programme of the Council of the EU prepared by the future Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian Presidencies

The Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian Presidencies have prepared a programme covering the period January 2010 to June 2011.

The priorities with regards to **home affairs** include:

- Asylum and Immigration
- Legal immigration
- Integration of Third Country Nationals
- Illegal immigration
- Visa policy
- Schengen Area
- International protection
- Cooperation with third countries in the framework of the EU Global Approach
- Internal Security Strategy
- Countering Terrorism
- Fight against trafficking in human beings
- Combating Drugs
- Police and Customs cooperation
- Crime Prevention and Fight against serious and organised crime
- Exchange of information
- Civil protection

With regards to **judicial cooperation**, priorities of the three presidencies include:

1. Practical Cooperation in judicial matters
2. Judicial Cooperation in Criminal matters
3. Judicial Cooperation in Civil law matters
4. External relations in the area of Freedom Security and Justice