

## **DOORSTEPS DECLARATION**

„Today's JAI Council is the first within the Presidency of Romania and I am glad that many interior ministers are here these days in Bucharest. Together with them will be the European Commissioners, Mr. Avramopoulos and King, as well as the chairman of the LIBE Committee, Mr. Moraes.

As it is an informal council, we included on the agenda some current subjects: migration and asylum, the fight against terrorism, police cooperation and the Schengen area.

The Presidency has already been working very strongly with many of the files regarding migration management and border security and I hope that the today's meeting will clarify furthermore the solutions we want to implement in the upcoming period.

You have noticed, even in the past days, that we have faced a second situation regarding the ships with migrant people in the Mediterranean Sea, and this is the reason why we want to speed up the process of finalizing the temporary settlement procedures. It is a solution to respond to such situations, that is based on solidarity and volunteering.

Romania has always sustained that these principles are the ones that have to characterize the European Union's response and this is the reason why we have expressed our willingness to participate in this joint effort of the Member States.

Regarding Schengen area issue, I included it on the agenda not only because it is a subject of highly interest for Romania and Bulgaria, but because it also concerns other aspects, such as maintaining internal border controls for very long periods of time.

It is true that there have been events in Europe that have determined such reactions - and I refer here to the many terrorist attacks that have jeopardized the European security - but we will have to decide what is the best measure in order to ensure a balance between the safety of the citizens of those states facing the risk with the migratory pressure and maintaining this fundamental value of the EU, which is the European Free Trade Area.

Thank you!”