



**ROMANIA**  
**MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS**  
**INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTORATE**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Nº: 154 dated June 19, 2019**

On Wednesday, June 19, the EU-US meeting took place at the Palace of Parliament at ministerial level in the fields of justice and internal affairs in the context of Romania's holding of the Council of the European Union' presidency.

The EU-US Dialogue on the External Dimension of Justice and Internal Affairs is a traditional one and takes place on a semi-annual basis, during each rotating presidency of the EU Council.

The dialogue takes place at a technical level - in the form of “*senior officials*” (*SOM*) (a meeting in the state of residence of the Presidency-in-office) and also at a political level - in a ministerial format (a meeting in the state of Residence of the Presidency-in-office or in Washington, alternatively).

The participants in the dialogue are: the EU through the European Commission, the European External Action Service, and the General Secretariat of the Council, EUROPOL, EUROJUST, FRONTEX, and the Presidency-in-Office of the EU Council, as the organizer, the future Presidency, as an observer, through the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the General Prosecutor's Office, and the State Department.

On the agenda of the meeting there were subjects of common interest, namely: counter-terrorism, migration, borders and visas, elections (resilience of electoral systems), and security and judicial cooperation in cyberspace. Also, the upcoming Presidency of the EU Council has set out its priorities in the field of justice and internal affairs.

**Following the meeting, a Joint Statement has been adopted, which you can find below:**

*Bucharest, the 19<sup>th</sup> of June, 2019*

*On the 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2019, the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union hosted the EU-US Ministerial Meeting on Justice and Internal Affairs in Bucharest, Romania. The meeting provided the opportunity for both sides to assess their long-standing cooperation in this area and to reaffirm the partnership in addressing common security threats.*

*The United States were represented by US Attorney General William Barr and Deputy Secretary-General in office for the National Security Department, David Pekoske.*

*The European Union, which hosted the meeting, was represented by Commissioner for Migration, Internal Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris Avramopoulos, Commissioner for Justice, Consumers and Equal Opportunities, Věra Jourová, Safety Europe Commissioner, Julian King, as well as Deputy Prime Minister, Interim Minister and Romanian Justice Minister, Ana Birchall, and the Romanian Interior Minister, Carmen Daniela Dan, together with the Finnish Minister for Internal Affairs, Maria Ohisalo, and Minister of Justice, Ms. Anna-Maja Henriksson, on behalf of the current and future Presidencies of the Council of the European Union.*

*The European Union and the United States have reaffirmed that the fight against terrorism is among their main priorities and committed themselves to strengthening their joint efforts, including by expanding the exchange of information collected from combat areas, in order to use it in investigations and prosecutions. The participants welcomed the results already achieved in this area, including through co-operation with Europol and Eurojust, and they are looking forward to the results of the meeting on this topic, that will bring together EU and US experts, in Brussels, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July. Concerning other important EU-US intelligence areas, the participants in the meeting reiterated the importance of the EU-US regarding the Passenger Name Recording and they committed to launch a joint assessment of its implementation. The European Union and the United States have also discussed about the current aviation security threats, including unmanned airplane systems, combating Internet use for terrorist purposes and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats.*

*The European Union and the United States also discussed about the priority area of virtual space security. The participants committed themselves to continue their joint efforts in order to maintain a secure, open and secure*

*virtual space and exchanged views on the best way to approach the growing cyber threats. The participants admitted that the implementation of 5G network infrastructure must be considered as a priority, as it could pose significant security risks and impact on the ability of law enforcement agencies to take effective action against crime. The European Union and the United States have committed themselves to continue exchanging information on the evaluation and management of 5G networks and the security risks of the supply chain through existing channels, including in the Justice and Internal Affairs meetings.*

*The European Union and the United States of America have also recognized the importance of cross-border access to electronic evidence and discussed upon the implications of recent legislation in force in the United States of America and the legislation currently being negotiated in the European Union. Participants took note of the recent approval by the Council of the European Union of the Commission's authorization mandate to negotiate on behalf of the European Union an agreement between the European Union and the United States of America to facilitate access to electronic evidence for judicial cooperation in criminal matters, as well as the steps taken by the United States to open negotiations for such an agreement in line with their own legislation.*

*The European Union and the United States have also reviewed the unprecedented challenges faced by electoral systems in democratic states that require exchange of good practice to overcome those challenges. The participants confirmed their commitment to continue the dialogue at expert level.*

*The United States and the European Union have briefed each other about the recent developments in migration and border control policies, in particular the European Union has informed about the new mandate of the European Border Agency and Coastguard Agency (EBCGA) and the European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS), two instruments that will further strengthen border management at European level. Both sides agreed upon the vital importance of preventing and combating trafficking in migrants and human beings and discussed about further common actions in these areas.*

*Finally, the European Union and the United States agreed upon the importance of making progress on visa-free reciprocal travel on the basis of their own legislation, and, following the meeting on visa reciprocity in May 2019 between the United States, The European Union and the Member States concerned,*

*welcomed the progress made by the five Member States concerned to meet the requirements of the Visa Waiver Program so that they can be taken into account in the Visa Waiver Program.*

*Reaffirming the commitment to make joint progress towards common solutions in these areas, the European Union and the United States decided to reunite in the second half of the year 2019, in Washington, DC.*

*The meeting was also attended by the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, Giles de Kerchove, Europol Executive Director, Catherine De Bolle, Frontex Executive Director, Fabrice Leggeri and the Eurojust Vice President Klaus Meyer-Cabri.*

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