



ROMANIA
MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS
INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTORATE

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PRESS RELEASE

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MIA - A Successful Presidency of the Justice and Internal Affairs Council - Internal Affairs

During the presidency of the Justice and Internal Affairs Council - the Internal Affairs section, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has successfully fulfilled its objectives set by the Romanian Presidency's Program at the EU Council, succeeding in closing seven legislative files and making progress in negotiating other important legislative and non- legislative ones, as well as the Multi-Annual Financial Framework 2021-2027.

At the MIA level, preparations for fulfilling the responsibilities assumed for the six months in which Romania held the Presidency of the EU Council started at the beginning of year 2016, with approximately 320 specialists being involved in the good work development. Between January-June 2019, during the Romanian Presidency, 223 meetings of working groups on different themes and 15 trialogue meetings took place in the field of internal affairs.

Also, the Minister of Internal Affairs, Carmen Dan, coordinated three JAI Council meetings: an informal one held in Bucharest and two formalities ones in Brussels and Luxembourg, respectively. At the same time, 23 events took place in the country, at the MIA level and the structures, according to the official timetable of PRES RO.

The priorities identified in the Internal Affairs section concerned areas such as: strengthening internal EU security, ensuring integrated border management, efficient and sustainable migration management, ensuring interoperability of large-scale IT systems at EU level, combating terrorism, including preventing and combating online radicalization.

CLOSED FILES

1. EFFICIENCY OF THE DATA EXCHANGE

On the internal security line, during the Presidency of Romania for the EU Council, the Parliament and the EU Council adopted the legislative package on ensuring the interoperability of information systems that will make the activities of the competent national authorities more efficient by facilitating the correct identification of persons and combating identity fraud in the territory of the Member States.

Authorities charged in any EU Member State will have access to a European search portal that will allow them to obtain information about a verified person from all existing databases at Union level with a single search.

2. FACILITATION OF ACCESS TO FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR DETECTING SUSPECTS OF TERRORISM AND OTHER SERIOUS CRIMES

Also, in order to make more efficient the activity of law enforcement agencies, especially in the fight against terrorism and certain serious crimes, a directive has been adopted that facilitates their access to financial information. This is about information regarding both the funds used to fund certain offenses and those obtained illegally.

3. EXTENSION OF DATA EXCHANGE REGARDING JUDICIARY CASES

As part of the efforts to strengthen internal security at the level of the EU Member States, the European Criminal Records Information System has been extended by introducing third-country nationals condemned at EU level into the system.

4. CONSOLIDATING FRONTEX AGENCY

Although at the beginning of the mandate, based on the experience of the previous presidencies, Romania only proposed an agreement at the level of the EU Council on the consolidation of the FRONTEX Agency, the MIA succeeded more, obtaining a final vote in the European Parliament.

Following the negotiations, by 2027, the Agency will have operational staff of up to 10,000 people (FRONTEX operational staff and seconded, short- or long-term staff from Member States). It also receives a broader mandate to support Member States' activities regarding border protection, return and cooperation with third countries.

5. IMPROVED ATTRIBUTIONS FOR MIGRATION LIAISON OFFICERS

An additional step towards a strong and coherent EU response to the problem of illegal migration was the adoption of the Immigration Liaison Regulation, which will have a stronger role in combating migrant trafficking, information gathering and return procedures illegal immigrants.

6. SECURE IDENTITY CARDS

Another goal achieved during the PRES RO period was the adoption of the ID card, which provides for the introduction of stricter security measures for EU citizen identity cards. At a national level, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has already prepared a project to adapt the national legislation to the European requirements, which are currently in the Romanian Parliament. One of the advantages of introducing new identity cards is to solve many of the difficulties encountered by Romanians, especially those from abroad, in relation to the authorities of the respective countries.

7. RescEU - An Effective Tool for Living People

The Romanian Presidency of the JIA Council has taken the final steps to close the Civil Protection Mechanism file, which provides for the establishment of RescEU, an instrument that will coagulate capacities for rapid intervention in the event of emergencies whose effects exceed one state's response capacity member.

In addition to the responsibilities assumed during the presidency of the Justice and Internal Affairs Council - the internal affairs section, the MIA provided, together with other competent institutions and authorities, the security of the participants and the public order during the nearly 300 events organized at national level PRES RO context, including the Summit of Heads of State and Government in Sibiu and 23 Ministerial Meetings.

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