

Thursday 25 October 2012

Justice and Home Affairs Council - home affairs issues

Home Affairs ministers will have an orientation debate on the proposal for a decision concerning a **Union Civil Protection Mechanism** ([18919/11](#)), which will replace the current decision in this field (*OJ L 314, 1.12.2007*). The aim of the proposal is to improve the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of systems preventing, preparing for and responding to natural and man-made disasters of all kinds within and outside the Union.

The Council will also take note of the state of play regarding

- the full **application of the provisions of the Schengen acquis in Bulgaria and Romania** (see [European Council conclusions of 1-2 March 2012, page 14](#));
- the establishment of a **common European asylum system (CEAS)**, which is based on a number of legislative proposals aiming at greater harmonisation of national asylum systems and higher levels of protection. In its conclusions of June 2012 ([EUCO 76/12, page 5](#)), the European Council reiterated that the various elements of the CEAS - directives on asylum procedures ([11207/11](#)) and reception conditions ([11214/11](#)), the regulation on "Eurodac" (a fingerprint database) ([10638/12](#)) and the so-called Dublin regulation - should be completed by the end of 2012;
- the establishment of a **Regional Protection Programme**, in response to the Syrian crisis.

Ministers are also expected to take note of a Commission presentation on **illicit trafficking of firearms** and to adopt Council conclusions on the **protection of soft targets** from terrorist activities. The presidency will then give a brief overview of the state-of-play of a number of other legislative proposals in the area of home affairs.

The Mixed Committee (the EU plus Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland), meeting in the margins of the Council, will also examine the **application of the Schengen acquis in Bulgaria and Romania**. Furthermore, it will review the state of play regarding the implementation of the **Schengen Information System (SIS II)** and take note of a presentation by the Commission and Frontex (the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders) on **illegal immigration**. In this context, the Committee will be briefed on the Greek National Action Plan on Asylum Reform and Migration Management. Finally, the Commission will present its third report on the **post-visa liberalisation monitoring for the Western Balkan** countries.

Event

Meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council ([home affairs](#) items), Conference centre Kirchberg, Luxembourg (10.00).

The presidency will hold a briefing in the Council press room in Brussels, on Wednesday 24 October at 13.00. A press conference will take place at the end of the meeting.

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Friday 26 October 2012

Justice and Home Affairs Council - justice issues

Justice ministers will take stock of the state of play and hold a debate on two proposals for directives on:

- criminal sanctions for **insider dealing and market manipulation** ("market abuse directive") ([16000/11](#)). The draft directive establishes minimum rules for criminal sanctions for the most serious market abuse offences, namely insider dealing and market manipulation. It thereby complements the proposal, presented by the Commission in parallel ([16010/11](#)), for a regulation on insider dealing and market manipulation, which sets up a common regulatory framework on market abuse;

- the freezing and **confiscation of proceeds of crime** in the EU ([7641/12](#)). The proposal aims to make it easier for national authorities to confiscate and recover the profits that criminals make from cross-border and organised crime.

The Council will also discuss a proposal for a directive on the **protection of the EU's financial interests** by criminal law, following a presentation by the Commission. The goal of the proposal ([12683/12](#)) is to deter fraudsters, improve the prosecution and sanctioning of crimes against the EU budget, and facilitate the recovery of misused EU funds thereby increasing the protection of EU taxpayers' money.

In addition, the Council will take note of the state of play on a revision of the 1995 regulation on the **protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data** and on the free movement of such data (General Data Protection regulation) ([5853/12](#)). In the light of rapid technological developments and globalisation, the update is designed to build a stronger and more coherent data protection framework.

Moreover, ministers will discuss the recommendations contained in the final report on the fifth round of mutual evaluations, dedicated to **financial crime and financial investigations** ([12657/2/12](#)). On the basis of a presidency paper ([14597/12](#)), ministers will look at how initiatives within the criminal law area can contribute to the enhanced fight against organised crime. The rounds of mutual evaluation are a mechanism for evaluating the application and implementation at national level of international undertakings in the fight against organised crime.

Finally the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) will present the 2012 report on the **state of the drug problem** in Europe, and ministers will be invited to exchange views on the report.

Event

Meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council (justice items) - Conference centre Kirchberg, Luxembourg (10.00).

The presidency will hold a press briefing in the Council press room in Brussels on Wednesday 24 October at 13.00. A press conference will take place at the end of the meeting.

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