

JUSTICE and HOME AFFAIRS COUNCIL
Monday 15 and Tuesday 16 June in Luxembourg

The meeting will be chaired by **Dzintars RASNAČS**, Latvian Minister for Justice and by **Rihards KOZLOVSKIS**, Latvian Minister for the Interior.

On Monday, starting at 10.00, Justice ministers will discuss the **data protection regulation** and are expected to reach an agreement on the whole text in order to start negotiations with the European Parliament.

Ministers are also expected to agree on general approach on a regulation promoting the free movement of citizens and businesses by **simplifying the acceptance of certain public documents** in the EU.

Moreover, ministers will discuss and provisionally agree on certain articles of the regulation establishing the **European public prosecutor's office (EPPO)**.

On Tuesday, starting at 10.00, the Council in the Mixed Committee format (the EU plus Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland) will discuss the follow up to the special meeting of the European Council on 23 April 2015 and the recent European Commission communication on a **European Migration Agenda** and its related proposals.

Home affairs ministers will also exchange their views on the implementation of measures regarding the **fight against terrorism** as a follow up to the statement of 12 February by the members of the European Council. Ministers are expected to adopt conclusions on the renewed European Union Internal Security Strategy 2015-2020.

Press conferences:

- Justice Council (*Monday, at the end of the meeting +/- 18.00*)
- Home affairs Council (*Tuesday, at the end of the meeting +/- 17.00*)

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Press conferences and public events by video streaming: <http://video.consilium.europa.eu>

Video coverage in broadcast quality (MPEG4) and photo gallery on: www.eucouncil.tv

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¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.

JUSTICE

Data protection regulation

– General approach

The Council will try to reach a [general approach](#) on the whole draft regulation setting out a general EU framework for data protection. This general approach will constitute the basis for negotiations with the European Parliament in order to agree the final text of the regulation

In January 2012, in the light of rapid technological developments and globalisation, the European Commission presented a legislative package to update and modernise the principles enshrined in the 1995 Data Protection Directive ([Directive 95/46/EC](#)), to guarantee data protection rights in the future. The package includes a [policy communication](#) setting out the Commission's objectives, and two legislative proposals as a legislative package: a [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) and a [directive](#) on protecting personal data processed for the purposes of prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties and the free movement of such data for the police and criminal justices authorities.

The data protection legislative reform aims at building a stronger and more coherent data protection framework in the EU, backed by strong enforcement that will allow the digital economy to develop across the internal market, put individuals in control of their own data and reinforce legal and practical certainty for economic operators and public authorities. Data protection in the European Union is a fundamental right. The EU data protection reform seeks to ensure a very high level of protection of personal data.

More information:

[Data Protection reform](#)

Free movement of public documents

– General approach

The Council is expected to reach a [general approach](#) on the draft regulation on promoting the free movement of citizens and businesses by simplifying the requirements for presenting certain public documents in the European Union. This general approach will constitute the basis for negotiations with the European Parliament in order to agree the final text of the regulation.

The proposed regulation, as amended by the Council, aims at simplifying the procedures for cross-border use of public documents related to civil status matters between the member states, i.e. allowing for circulation of such documents without the requirement of legalisation or similar formality, thereby contributing towards the creation of a citizens' Europe.

On 12 and 13 March 2015, the Council already reached a partial general approach covering all provisions in the draft regulation with the exception of Article 18(2b) and of those concerning translations, multilingual standard forms and the entry into force of the regulation.

The Commission presented its [proposal](#) on 24 April 2013.

European Public Prosecutor's Office

– Policy debate

The Council is expected to agree in principle on the text of the first 16 articles on the proposal regarding the setting up of a European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO). These articles include the most important provisions of the Regulation, namely all the rules on the organisation and the functioning of the Office.

Moreover, the Council will be briefed by the Presidency on the state of play on the other articles (articles 17 to 33) which have been discussed during its mandate but on which more work is still needed at expert level.

The proposed regulation aims to help combat crimes against the Union's financial interests by introducing a European Public Prosecutor's Office with competence in that area. The legal basis and the rules for setting up the EPPO are laid down in article 86 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). The proposed regulation will be adopted in accordance with a special legislative procedure: the Council will decide unanimously after obtaining the consent of the European Parliament.

The Commission presented its [proposal](#) on 17 July 2013.

HOME AFFAIRS

Fight against terrorism

- Follow up to the statement of the member states of the European Council of 12 February 2015 on Counter-Terrorism

The Council will have a discussion on the implementation of the measures contained in the counter-terrorism statement issued by the EU Heads of State or Government after the latest terrorist attacks on European soil.

Ministers will take stock of the progress achieved in the implementation of measures and discuss and exchange ideas on how to take the agreed priorities forward on the basis of a report from the Presidency and from the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator.

Moreover, the European Commission is expected to present its European Agenda on Security, issued on 28 April 2015, which includes counter-terrorism as a priority and supports a number of the directions given by the Heads of State or Government.

In their statement on counter-terrorism of 12 February, the European leaders set out an ambitious agenda based on three pillars:

- ensuring the security of citizens;
- preventing radicalisation and safeguarding values; and
- cooperation with international partners.

The Council was asked to report on the detailed implementation of these priorities at the next European Council (25-26 June) and the discussion at the JHA Council will feed into this.

At the [JHA Council of 12-13 March](#), Ministers identified priority areas where specific actions could be taken and significant results achieved in the coming months

For more information:

[Statement of 12 February by the Members of the European Council](#)

[Response to foreign fighters and recent terrorist attacks in Europe](#)

[European Agenda on Security](#)

Migratory issues

- Follow up to the special meeting of the European Council on 23 April 2015
- A European Agenda on Migration: policy debate

The Council will have a comprehensive discussion on migratory issues. Ministers will discuss the follow up to the special meeting of the European Council on 23 April 2015 and the recent European Commission communication on a European Migration Agenda and its related proposals.

Following the tragic incidents in the Mediterranean sea which caused the loss of hundreds of lives last April, the President of the European Council convened a special meeting on migration that was held on 23 April 2015. The objective of the summit was to discuss, at the highest level, what member states and the EU institutions together could and should do to in particular to alleviate the serious situation in the Mediterranean sea.

The European Council adopted a statement, recalling the seriousness of the situation in the Mediterranean and listing a series of measures to be adopted in four specific areas:

- strengthening EU presence at sea;
- fighting traffickers in accordance with international law;
- preventing illegal migration flows;

- reinforcing internal solidarity and responsibility.

Leaders also indicated that they looked forward the Commission Communication on a European Agenda on Migration, which should develop a more systematic and geographically comprehensive approach to migration.

The Agenda was presented by the Commission on 13 May. Its first part defines immediate measures to prevent human tragedies and to reinforce mechanisms to deal with emergencies. This will be done by strengthening EU presence at sea to save lives, targeting criminal smuggling networks, responding to high volumes of arrivals within the EU with a distribution mechanism for asylum-seekers (relocation), bringing an increased number of refugees from third countries (resettlement) safely and legally to the EU, and using the EU's operational and financial tools to help frontline member states.

The agenda also defines a new strategic approach to manage better migration in the medium to long term, building on four pillars:

- reducing the incentives for irregular migration;
- saving lives and securing the external borders;
- a strong common asylum policy;
- a new policy on legal migration.

On 27 May the Commission presented its proposals for the immediate action:

- a proposal for a decision establishing provisional measures in the area of international protection for the benefit of Italy and Greece (relocation);
- a recommendation on a European Resettlement Scheme;
- an action plan against migrant smuggling;
- a staff working document on implementation of the Eurodac regulation as regards the obligation to take fingerprints.

For more information:

[Finding solutions to migratory pressures](#)