

Informal Videoconference of Foreign Affairs Ministers and Home Affairs Ministers 15 March 2021

The informal videoconference of Foreign Affairs Ministers and Home Affairs Ministers will be co-chaired by the High Representative Josep **Borrell** and by the Portuguese Minister of Interior Eduardo **Cabrita**. The videoconference will begin at **14:00**.

The main agenda item will be a discussion on the **external dimension of the EU's migration policy under the new pact on migration and asylum**.

The Portuguese Presidency will also inform ministers about its proposal to launch a political **dialogue on justice and home affairs with North African countries**, focused on enhancing operational cooperation.

Press conference: +/- 17.15 in a virtual format

[Informal videoconference of Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs Ministers meeting page](#)
[Video coverage of the event in broadcast quality \(MPEG4\) and photo gallery](#)
[Press conferences and public events via video streaming](#)

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

The external dimension of the EU's migration policy

Ministers will exchange views on the external aspects of the EU's migration policy, under the pact on migration and asylum. They will in particular focus their discussions on two areas:

- 1) how to strengthen cooperation with third countries in a comprehensive and mutually beneficial manner, and;
- 2) how to improve coordination and cooperation among EU actors to achieve migration objectives

Based on a jointly prepared issues paper by the Presidency and the High Representative, ministers will discuss how to best **develop** and further enhance **cooperation on migration with key third countries** of origin, transit and destination. In particular, ministers are expected to focus their debate on how to make sure all relevant aspects of migration are embedded in the EU's overall relations with third countries, based on common objectives with our partner countries. The discussion will build on existing **migration policies and instruments** which can be used within a wider context of the comprehensive relation between member states and key third countries and what the next steps should be.

Ministers will also discuss how the EU institutions and member states can **improve their coordination and cooperation**, building on existing good practices, to maximise the impact of their initiatives with third countries. They will, among other things, look at how EU and member states tools and resources, including financial resources, can reinforce each other to tackle common challenges linked to irregular migration and forced displacement while also looking at the opportunities that well-managed migration can offer.

There is wide consensus among member states that an effective migration policy requires cooperation with partner countries. The Commission's **new pact on migration and asylum** also underlines this and proposes **mutually beneficial and tailor-made partnerships with countries of origin and transit**.

To maximise the impact of these partnerships, the EU and its member states must work together more closely and constructively with third countries. In doing so, the EU and its member states should also ensure full coordination and consistent action and messages towards partner countries.

While no written conclusions are foreseen, the views expressed by member states will be taken into consideration when preparing the next steps in operationalising the concept of mutually beneficial partnerships with third countries.

- [New Pact on Migration and Asylum](#)
- [EU migration policy topics](#)
- [“Team Europe approach” towards partner countries](#)

Justice and Home affairs Dialogue with North Africa

The Presidency will present elements of a proposal for a comprehensive dialogue on justice and home affairs with partner countries in North Africa. The initiative will focus on enhancing operational cooperation with a number of North African partners and is in line with the renewed partnership with the Southern neighbourhood. It covers a comprehensive range of topics such as migration, mobility and border management, security, serious and organised crime, data protection, cybercrime and cybersecurity, police and judicial cooperation, democracy, rule of law and fundamental rights.

- [Renewed partnership with the Southern neighbourhood](#)
- [Cooperation with the Southern neighbourhood](#)

