

How to make the Justice and Home Affairs Policies work better?

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1. How to perceive Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) in today's Europe

Security situation in Europe as well as the events of 11 September 2001 have demonstrated that maintaining safe and stable Europe in the future will require a comprehensive understanding of security. **Internal security can no longer be clearly separated from aspects of external security.** Today there is an urgent need to bring these two sides of the same coin closer together. To be effective in the future, internal and external policies have to aim in the same direction. To be more concrete – for example - the examination of migration policy and transnational crime must also consider issues of external trade policy or EU assistance policy.

EU enlargement will result in new EU external borders. These borders must become **both safe and reliable** for the whole European Union. At the same time, however, they must not become permanent barriers to the eastern and southeastern neighbors of an enlarged EU. Therefore, development of JHA policies must be based on impact studies of both new security threats and the effects of enlargement. **Effective JHA policies will require full integration of the new member states and close cooperation with future direct neighbors of the Union**, such as Russia, Ukraine and other European states.

2. How to improve JHA policies in an enlarged European Union

Upon EU enlargement the current member states will not automatically extend the existing Schengen border regime to the east. However, Europe will not become more secure **unless the Schengen regime also fully encompasses all future member states.** In order to ensure smooth integration of JHA, the Union should commit itself

to lifting internal border controls as soon as every new member state meets a specified set of criteria for inclusion inside the Schengen regime. In preparation for participation in the Schengen regime my country - Slovakia welcomes the opportunity to participate actively in the framework of Joint Bilateral Police and Customs Cooperation Centers and wishes both to deepen this co-operation and intensify it in the context of all neighbouring states. **Control of borders is of an equal interest and concern for all member states.** Therefore we should look into forms of strengthened co-operation in current and future external borders protection. We have understanding for more communitarization in some JHA policies, e. g. in aiming at joint European border guard in the medium term. This is one of the elements, which should lead the Union towards implementation of a common asylum policy and common immigration policy. More efficient work and conditions for the role of EUROPOL and EUROJUST are important answers for concerns of people in Europe over threats to their security.

Mr. President,

More freedom, justice and security in Europe needs more openness and readiness for co-operation and shared, common responsibilities. This will surely bring benefits to citizens of the Union.