

EU Multi-Presidency – Russian Federation – United States of America
Meeting at Ministerial level
Communiqué
Vienna (Austria), 4 May 2006

In the margin of the Vienna Ministerial Conference on Security Partnership, representatives of the **European Union (EU)**, the **Russian Federation** and the **United States of America** met on 4 May 2006 in order to **discuss possible future tripartite cooperation in the field of justice and home affairs.**

This Meeting of Ministers was chaired by **Liese PROKOP**, Federal Minister of the Interior and current President of the Council of the European Union (EU).

The EU side also comprised Kari **RAJAMAKI**, Minister of the Interior of Finland, Peter **ALTMAIER**, Secretary of State, Federal Ministry of the Interior of Germany, Dragutin **MATE**, Minister of the Interior of Slovenia, Antonio **COSTA**, Minister of the Interior of Portugal, (representing the incoming Presidencies of the EU), Franco **FRATTINI**, Vice-President of the EU Commission, and Ivan **BIZJAK**, General Director of the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union. The United Kingdom was represented at official level.

The delegation of the Russian Federation was represented by **Viktor IVANOV**, Presidential Aide, **Rashid NURGALIEV**, Minister of the Interior, and **Viktor KOMOGOROW**, Deputy Director of the Federal Security Service.

The delegation of the United States of America was represented by **Alberto GONZALES**, Attorney General, and **Michael JACKSON**, Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

I. General Findings

The participants of the meeting welcomed the **first opportunity for a discussion of issues of common concern in relation to internal and homeland security**

between high officials responsible for home affairs from the **EU**, the **Russian Federation** and the **United States**. They indicated that this meeting could start a process towards a **cooperative tripartite relationship in the field of justice and home affairs** between these partners.

II. Concept of Cooperative Relationship

The **EU side outlined that its Strategy for the External Dimension of Justice and Home Affairs** calls for the elaboration of a **partnership with third countries** in the field of justice and home affairs, which includes strengthening the **rule of law** and **promoting the respect for human rights** and international obligations.

The Russian Federation underlined its readiness to cooperate in a tripartite format on internal security issues and stressed the importance of operational cooperation. In this context, it noted the successful development of the EU-Russian cooperation on the basis of its Road Map on the common space of freedom, security and justice.

The United States noted its extensive cooperative relationship with the EU on Justice and Home Affairs issues as well as its history of enforcement cooperation with the Russian Federation.

The Parties stressed that the development of an **area of enhanced freedom, security and justice** can only be successfully achieved through relationships based on **mutual cooperation**.

The participants therefore **discussed** the following key principles of a possible future **“Tripartite Cooperative Relationship” in the field of justice and home affairs**:

- **Willingness to work together** in order to tackle common threats and problems in the field of justice and home affairs.
- **Efforts to make justice and home affairs a priority in external relations.**

- **Work towards action-oriented solutions**, especially in the fight against **terrorism, transnational organised crime, corruption and illegal migration**.
- **Applying a differentiated and flexible approach**, including a multi-disciplinary assessment of needs.
- **Promoting the implementation of principles and norms of international law**.
- **Recognizing the rule of law and democratic rights as means of bolstering security**.
- **Mobilisation of operational resources** to work towards common objectives in addressing internal and homeland security issues.

III. Special Areas for Cooperation

The participants of the meeting identified the following special areas for possible enhanced cooperation:

- **Combating Terrorism**: Radicalisation and Recruitment; Financing; Cyberterrorism; Bringing terrorist and their supporters to justice
- **Fight against Organized Crime and Corruption**: Money Laundering; Drug Trafficking and Trafficking in Human Beings; Cybercrime
- **Countering Illegal Immigration, Security of Identity Documents and Border Control**

IV. Conclusion

Participants noted the importance of today's meeting which enabled for the first time Ministers responsible for home affairs from the **EU**, the **Russian Federation** and the **United States** to have an open exchange of views in relation to security issues. They stressed that the Vienna Initiative could start a process towards a "**Tripartite Cooperative Relationship**" in the field of justice and home affairs.

Participants therefore indicated their willingness to **work towards a meeting organized by the German EU-Presidency in the first half of 2007 to consider such a proposal**. They **invited experts** to explore the added value accomplished through on such a tripartite cooperation and to come forward with relevant recommendations. The first expert meeting in this context will be held in the second half of 2006.

Annex: List of Participants