



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council No 1067 Vienna, 10 September 2015

---

#### **AOB - EU Point of information following the informal meeting of the EU Foreign Ministers, Gymnich**

---

The European Union and its Member States would like to share with the Permanent Council an update on the migration and refugee crisis.

The challenge is not itself new, but the tragic events of the past few days have brought heightened attention and a continuing display of solidarity by citizens all over Europe. Foreign Ministers of the European Union met over the weekend to discuss the various aspects of the issue. Foreign Ministers underlined that cooperation should be strengthened over five different sets of issues.

First, on how to ensure better protection to those in need of protection: asylum seekers are entitled to the status of refugee.

Second, on the management of borders in full respect of our values, first of all respect for human rights.

Third, on the fight against traffickers and smugglers, both in the Mediterranean and on the land routes through the Western Balkans and in the EU.

Fourth, strengthening our partnership with third countries, mainly countries of origin and transit. This implies working together on readmission and returns, but also using all possible instruments to foster sustainable economic development, growth and jobs, especially for their young people.

Fifth, we need to work even more on the root cause of the influx. On Libya, we have expressed again our very active support to the UN-led negotiations to form a government of national unity, a government that we would support in any possible

way from day one. And on Syria, we need to intensify our efforts to find a political solution to the conflict.

The extraordinary Justice and Home Affairs Council on migration on 14 September will be the next opportunity for EU Member States to discuss and consider legislative proposals which will help address the migration and refugee crisis.

We will continue to inform our partners in the OSCE on future developments.