



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE AUTOMATED EXCHANGE OF DNA, DACTYLOSCOPIC AND VEHICLE REGISTRATION DATA

The responsible Ministers of the Republic of Albania, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Bulgaria, Hungary, the Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Romania and the Republic of Serbia or their authorised representatives (hereinafter referred to as “the Ministers”),

Noting that cross-border threats such as terrorism, organized crime, the trafficking in human beings or the smuggling of migrants pose rising challenges to the security of their citizens, way of life and countries;

Emphasising the significant role of the Western Balkans with regard to security and stability in and around Europe;

Convinced that security and stability in their countries is inseparably linked with a credible enlargement perspective for the Western Balkans;

Taking into consideration and based on the success of the “Schengen-like”¹ cooperation within the framework of the Police Cooperation Convention for Southeast Europe (hereinafter referred to as “PCC SEE”);

Determined to take cross-border police cooperation to the next level in order to prevent and combat the cross-border threats of our time, more effectively;

Recognizing that information sharing is an invaluable component in this fight;

Recalling the achievements the “Prüm cooperation”² has set in the aforementioned field of cross-border police cooperation with respect to the prevention, detection and investigation of criminal offences, namely

- *solving thousands of serious crimes,*
- *localizing wanted perpetrators,*
- *identifying unknown dead bodies and missing persons and*
- *uncovering fake IDs;*

¹ Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement of 14 June 1985 on the gradual abolition of checks at their common borders

² Explicitly the “Treaty of Prüm” of 27 May 2005 and the “EU Prüm regime” (Council Decision 2008/615/JHA and Council Decision 2008/616/JHA)

Bearing in mind that the process of establishing a respective EU-inspired framework will contribute to current EU accession efforts, as full EU-Prüm readiness is one of the preconditions for fulfilling the criteria of Chapter 24.

Have reached the following understanding:

Section 1

Automated exchange of DNA, dactyloscopic and vehicle registration data

The Ministers express their commitment to extend their cooperation to the field of automated exchange of DNA, dactyloscopic and vehicle registration data. This cooperation also includes the exchange of available subsequent personal and case-related data in the case of a match.

To this end, the Ministers will take the following steps:

Section 2

National Measures

The Ministers will take all necessary measures at national level to ensure the earliest possible beginning of data exchange between the competent authorities of their countries.

Section 3

Access

The competent authorities will undertake the necessary measures in order to allow the partner countries online access to their DNA data bases, fingerprint identification systems and national vehicle registration data with the power to conduct automated searches by comparing data to the extent provided by the Agreement referred to in Section 5.

Section 4

Support

The Ministers will support each other to the maximum extent possible in the necessary administrative and technical implementation in order to transmit and compare DNA, dactyloscopic and vehicle registration data successfully.

Section 5

Agreement

The Ministers will take all necessary measures at national level to establish the internal legal preconditions for the signing and entry into force of a respective Agreement as a legal framework in order to start the operational data exchange by all partner countries in a timely manner.

Section 6
Final Provision

This Memorandum of Understanding will come into effect on the date of signature by all Ministers and may only be changed by mutual understanding of all Ministers in written form.

Signed in Vienna, this day of September 2018, in nine original copies in the English language.

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For the Ministry of Interior
of the Republic of Albania

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For the Ministry of Internal Affairs
of the Republic of Moldova

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For the Federal Ministry of the Interior
of the Republic of Austria

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For the Ministry of the Interior
of Montenegro

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For the Ministry of Interior
of the Republic of Bulgaria

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For the Ministry of Internal Affairs
of Romania

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For the Ministry of Interior
of Hungary

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For the Ministry of the Interior
of the Republic of Serbia

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For the Ministry of Interior
of the Republic of Macedonia