



Joint Statement

*Issued by the Assembly of the Visegrad countries plus Germany
at its meeting in Prague, 28. 7. 2017*

Emphasizing the importance of an EU cooperation in fields such as migration and asylum while stressing the crucial necessity of sovereignty of individual countries.

Solidarity, cooperation and sovereignty will be all united in the concept of effective solidarity, in which all countries will be strongly encouraged to consider asylum seekers' applications and admit people in need to their countries while having the final decision on how many people they want to take in as well as consider the individual applicants themselves, and therefore have their own sovereignty in the decision.

Introducing the compulsory financial or humanitarian contribution to the EU funds in case that a country does not accept the number of asylum seekers granted protection recommended by the European Commission. The EU will be still supported to work on regulations for the member states regarding asylum system in terms of common conditions and standards as well as decisions on secondary movements within the union.

Regarding financial aspect of the asylum system and migration policy the existing Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) will be granted further support and involvement of the EU states.

Shared security will be guaranteed by reinforcing the EURODAC system, in which all data collected will be shared between EU members and their length of storage will be increased by half protecting the EU and Schengen area's external borders by strengthening FRONTEX and promoting further cooperation of EU and NATO forces in the Mediterranean, such as the Operation Sea Guardian and the Operation Sophia, in which smugglers' activities are stopped and their vessels disposed of reducing total number of incoming migrants and refugees by promoting further treaties and agreements, such as the EU-Turkey deal, with countries affected by migration flows from the regions of the Middle East and the African continent that are willing to cooperate on this issue, while providing the most affected countries with a development and humanitarian aid. The current compulsory OECD contribution to humanitarian causes of 0.7% of GDP will be further enforced while one fifth of that share will be recommended to be given to the war-affected countries of the Middle East, to also decrease the unsustainable migration flows to Europe.