

Ministry of Justice

To the Ministers of the Member States of the European Union

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Dear Minister,

The EU is facing a new international order marked by uncertainty, global strategic and economic competition, and rising levels of conflict. The Danish Presidency will address these challenges under the heading "A strong Europe in a changing world".

These overarching priorities will also be reflected in the field of justice, where strengthening the fight against serious cross-border and organized crime, technology as a platform for crime, strengthening internal security and resilience as well as cooperation and protection in civil matters will be the areas that we will primarily focus on.

The Danish Presidency will continue the work carried out to **fight serious** cross-border and organized crime, including drug related crime.

Persons engaged in serious cross-border crime often take up residence in third countries. We will therefore focus on judicial cooperation with third countries about the extradition of persons suspected or convicted of committing organized crime for the purpose of criminal prosecution. Furthermore, we will focus on supporting relevant EU agencies and strengthening cooperation within the EU and with third countries.

We will also focus on combating firearms and begin work within the Council on a new directive targeting illicit trafficking of firearms. Moreover, we will continue the work done by the Polish Presidency on the files on anticorruption and minimum standards for victims.

Our second priority is technology in relation to crime. Technological development brings significant benefits. It does, however, also create challenges as criminals increasingly exploit the internet, online communication services and other digital tools for criminal and harmful activities.

Further action is needed to address this alarming trend that also includes the rise of sexual abuse of minors online. The Danish Presidency will give high priority to the work on combatting sexual abuse and exploitation of children and child sexual abuse material.

Law enforcement authorities must have the necessary tools, including adequate access to data to combat and prosecute crime effectively. This applies to both online offences and serious crime planned or carried out by organized criminals using modern technology and digital infrastructure.

There is also a need to strengthen cooperation on data exchange with international organisations and third countries. The Presidency will support the EU's efforts to negotiate and conclude data exchange agreements with these partners.

The security landscape in and around the EU is complex and highly dynamic, impacting citizens, societies and economies. It will be of the highest priority for the Danish Presidency to continue the work to strengthen the internal security and resilience of the Union.

The Danish Presidency will continue efforts and dialogue to address the consequences of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. We will continue the fight against impunity.

In the area of **cooperation and protection in civil matters**, the Danish Presidency will continue efforts to uphold and strengthen respect for fundamental rights and freedoms.

We will support efforts to further integrate EU capital markets by advancing negotiations on the proposal for a directive harmonizing certain aspects of insolvency law.

The Danish Presidency will also continue the work on the EU's accession to the European Convention on Human Rights.

Last, but not least, we will continue negotiations on the proposal for a regulation on reducing challenges faced by adults needing decision-making support in cross-border cases.

These are the priorities for our Presidency. Nonetheless, we all know that these are unpredictable times and we will be ready to adapt our approach, if required by unforeseen events and changing circumstances.

Sincerely,

Peter Hummelgaard

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Minister for Justice