State Secretary attends meeting of the Council of Ministers of the EU for Justice and Home Affairs in Cyprus

During the meeting session there was a discussion on sustainable approaches to the return of persons who do not meet the conditions for residence in the European Union and integration.

Ms. Herferle expressed how well-designed reintegration programmes might be useful to easily implement return, aiding in a sustainable impact and strenghtening the credibility of return policies. She stated that to support persons in the return process, Slovenia uses the European Union's Frontex reintegration programme.

She stressed that a common standard approach is urgently needed, as the existing differences in national support programmes and financial incentives lead to secondary migration. To make efforts more successful, she highlighted that enhanced operational cooperation and assistance between Member States is ensured, especially in the procedures for establishing identity and obtaining the necessary travel documents as the basis for the return of persons who do not meet the conditions for residence in the European Union.

The working lunch discussion focused on the return of Afghan and Syrian nationals who do not have residence permits in European Union countries. There is a growing number of initiatives among Member States to return, in particular, convicted criminals and persons who pose a threat to the internal security of Member States and their public order.

Source(s)

- Ministry of the Interior and Public Administration | Ministrstvo za notranje zadeve in javno upravo (22 January, 2026), Neformalno zasedanje notranjih ministrov na Cipru o vračanju in schengnu [Informal meeting of interior ministers in Cyprus on return and Schengen], https://www.gov.si/novice/2026-01-22-neformalno-zasedanje-notranjih-ministrov-na-cipru-o-vracanju-in-schengnu/

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