REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

Ministry of the Interior
of the Czech Republic

HELLENIC REPUBLIC

MINISTRY OF MIGRATION AND ASYLUM

MINISTERO
DELL'INTERNO

LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère des Affaires intérieures

Ministerie van Justitie
en Veiligheid

Federal Ministry
Interior
Republic of Austria

Ministry of the Interior and Administration
Republic of Poland

Ministry of the Interior
Finland

To the attention of: Magnus Brunner, Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration

13 November 2026

Joint Letter from the undersigned Ministers regarding the legal framework regulating family reunification

We – the undersigned Ministers – are writing to you to raise an issue of importance for our Member States.

Since 2015 the European Union has faced significant migration pressure with high number of asylum applications leading to a continued burden on many Member States´ national asylum and reception systems. Many countries which, in the past, have received large numbers of immigrants have faced the challenge of these immigrants exercising their right to family reunification. Naturally, this places an additional burden on public services, above all on education systems. Schools, particularly in urban areas, have had to take in a large number of children, often with no prior schooling and within a very short period of time. Housing, healthcare, childcare and labor-market integration services have faced similar pressures. This issue is also part of the public debate in host countries, which calls for an appropriate response.

To address this situation, many Member States have taken steps to either limit family reunification cases or started discussions on possible restrictions. At the same time, we are convinced that national measures alone cannot provide a lasting solution. The legal framework for family reunification is set at European level, and many Member States face the same challenges. A common and sustainable approach to family reunification is needed, taking into account that restrictions are legally possible.

For this reason, we would like to propose that Directive 2003/86/EC will be evaluated and revised in a targeted manner. We respectfully invite the Commission to launch a targeted revision of the Directive in order to find a workable Union-level solution that effectively addresses this challenge. We remain committed to working constructively with the Commission and fellow Member States and to contribute actively to this process.

Yours sincerely,

Ivan Demerdzhiev
Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Bulgaria

Lubomír Metnar
Minister of the Interior of the Czech Republic

Athanasios (Thanos) Plevris
Minister of Migration and Asylum of the Hellenic Republic

Matteo Piantedosi
Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Italy

Léon Gloden
Minister of Home Affairs Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Bart van den Brink
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Asylum and Migration of the Netherlands

Gerhard Karner
Federal Minister of Interior of the Republic of Austria

Marcin Kierwiński
Minister of the Interior and Administration Poland

Mari Rantanen
Minister of the Interior
Finland