



**COUNCIL OF
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LIMITE

**CIREFI 40
COMIX 922**

NOTE

from: Presidency

to: CIREFI/Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum/Mixed
Committee (EU-Iceland/Norway/Switzerland)

No. prev. doc. 10113/06 CIREFI 25 COMIX 519

Subject: CIREFI information exchange: progress of work

At the end of the Austrian Presidency, a report was presented to the Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum (SCIFA) on the efforts made by the Austrian Presidency to improve the CIREFI information exchange (doc. 10113/06). This report contained a number of conclusions and recommendations which were supported by SCIFA. It was agreed that, at the end of the Finnish Presidency, a report would be submitted by CIREFI on the progress of work and on any difficulties encountered in the efforts to collect coherent data on illegal migration.

The Finnish Presidency has monitored the monthly information exchange over recent months and has come to the following findings.

1) A necessary requirement for an efficient information exchange is that the same format is used consistently by delegations. In the Austrian CIREFI report, Member States were requested to ensure that the monthly statistics be comprehensive and that the agreed form be used.

However, it turned out that not all Member States use the form 'Assessment Format for Migration Pressure Per Member States as laid down in doc. 10526/05 CIREFI 17.

2) The figures should always be compared with those of the previous month and year and the statistics must meet the agreed definitions (doc. 8927/1/98 CIREFI 35 REV 1). However, some Member States have not provided reference data for the previous month or year.

3) Delegations should provide comprehensive data. However, some data is sometimes missing as some delegations do not send information on all points of Sections I or II (see also point 6) e.g. some Member States did not provide information on asylum seekers.

4) In some cases, the reporting period differs between Member States.

5) Member States should also systematically mention the top 5 nationalities involved by using the ISO country codes. Some Member States did not systematically provide this information nor did they mention the ISO country codes.

6) The information on section 2 of the format "Salient facts" is often missing and is sent by delegations some days after the meeting. The information is often presented orally at the CIREFI meetings which takes considerable time.

The Presidency concludes that, despite a certain progress in the information exchange, a number of considerable shortcomings persist. These shortcomings are basically the same as the ones identified in the previous report. These problems are sometimes due to different national administrative procedures in collecting statistical data. Other problems could, however, be solved rather easily.

The Presidency therefore reiterates the conclusions and recommendations contained in doc. 10113/06. Furthermore, it reminds delegations that statistical data are to be sent to Eurostat. The statistical data contained in the CIREFI situation reports should be identical to the ones sent to Eurostat. CIREFI should therefore pay more attention to the completion of section II of the format i.e. the salient facts and should focus, where possible, on special trends and modus operandi. The "tour de table" during CIREFI meetings should also focus exclusively on salient facts and not include a presentation of the statistical data already contained in the contributions to the CIREFI situation report. This also means that only Member States which have special facts to report should take the floor.

SCIFA is invited to take note of this report and to task the incoming Presidency to submit a progress report to SCIFA at the end of the first semester of 2007. This progress report should pay particular attention to any difficulties encountered in the efforts to collect coherent data on illegal migration.
