

10295/97

LIMITE

ASIM 162

**DRAFT "I/A" ITEM NOTE**

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from: the Presidency

to : K.4 Committee

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Subject: Exchange of information in the fields of asylum and immigration

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Under the Irish Presidency, the working methods of both the Centre for Information, Discussion and Exchange on Asylum (CIREA) and the Centre for Information, Discussion and Exchange on the Crossing of Frontiers and Immigration (CIREFI) were closely examined. The results of this exercise are laid down in 9584/3/96 CIREA 33 REV 3 and 10351/2/96 CIREFI 23 REV 2 respectively.

Under the Netherlands Presidency this work was supplemented, particularly with a view to:

- improving the quality of information in the fields of asylum and immigration;
- reinforcing the system for exchanging this information, including the exchange of information with certain third countries in the context of the pre-accession strategy;
- specifying more precisely the tasks incumbent on the authorities of the Member States, the Presidency, the General Secretariat of the Council and the Commission.

The results of this work are contained in 7341/4/97 REV 4.

COREPER could invite the Council to:

- take note of the guidelines contained in the documents referred to above;
- invite the Commission to ask its Statistical Office (EUROSTAT) to collect and process the statistical data in the fields of asylum and immigration and to distribute them to the competent Council bodies. For this purpose, the experts of the Member States, together with the Commission, will draw up within the Council a procedure for improving the comparability of data. The Member States will supply the Commission with the relevant statistical data as soon as this procedure has been finalized;
- agree that non-statistical confidential information will continue to be processed in the context of CIREFI or CIREA, on the basis of the preparatory work to be carried out by the Presidency and/or the General Secretariat, in accordance with their terms of reference;
- take note of the Commission's intention to set up a mechanism for collecting and disseminating information accessible to the public;
- confirm the desirability of including in an appropriate manner in the information exchange system, inter alia the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Cyprus in the context of the pre-accession strategy;
- agree that the subject of collection, processing, analysis and redistribution of information in the fields of asylum and immigration will be re-examined and, if necessary, adapted to the provisions of the Amsterdam Treaty when it enters into force.

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