



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 3 September 2009

**11502/09
EXT 1**

**CIREFI 16
COMIX 534**

PARTIAL DECLASSIFICATION

of document: 11502/09 RESTREINT UE

dated: 1 July 2009

new classification: none

Subject: CIREFI Summary Report January-June 2009

Delegations will find attached the partially declassified version of the above-mentioned document.



ANNEX

**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 1 July 2009

**11502/09
EXT 1 (03.09.2009)**

**CIREFI 16
COMIX 534**

NOTE

from:	CIREFI
to:	Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum
No. prev. doc.:	11319/09 CIREFI 15 COMIX 523
Subject:	CIREFI Summary Report January-June 2009

Introduction

This summary report has been prepared in compliance with "*Conclusions and recommendations on the functioning and future of CIREFI*"¹ as agreed by CIREFI on 28 April 2009 and endorsed by SCIFA at its meeting on 19-20 May 2009.

The report summarises the main trends in the area of illegal migration and the crossing of borders in the period January to June 2009 as they were recorded by Member States and reported in CIREFI. The report also includes relevant information on different phenomena observed during the reference period in relation to illegal migration towards the European Union.

¹ In doc. 9873/09, page 6, it is said "at the end of each Presidency, the Presidency, in cooperation with the Council General Secretariat, should prepare a summary with topics from the situation reports together with conclusions and proposals. Following its approval by CIREFI, the summary should be transmitted to SCIFA and could also provide input for the annual report on immigration and asylum which will be prepared by the Commission;"

1. Refusals of entry

NOT DECLASSIFIED

2. Illegal aliens apprehended

NOT DECLASSIFIED

3. Asylum

NOT DECLASSIFIED

4. Salient facts

4.1 Use of false documents

The use of false documents is widespread in all European Union countries. Travel and residence documents as well as false source documents are being used by illegal immigrants to enter and stay in the European Union. According to the figures and information forwarded by Member States, it is an important issue in the fight against illegal immigration in the European Union.

4.2 Misuse of legal channels to enter the EU or to legalise stay in EU

The abuse of procedures to ensure entry into European Union countries and to remain illegally in it has been the focus of special attention. **NOT DECLASSIFIED** Several Member States carried out operations to dismantle international networks organising false marriages in the Member States.

4.3 Situation at maritime borders in the south of the European Union

Migration pressure at the European Union's southern sea borders continues to give cause for concern even though there has been a steady reduction of immigrants arriving in the Canary Islands and southern Spain since the second semester of 2008. The situation remains difficult for Italy, Malta, Cyprus and Greece where increasing number of migrants arriving in boats was reported in the last months.

4.4 Return operations

The increase in the number of joint flights and in the participation of Member States demonstrate greater cooperation between Member States and with Frontex. Joint flights represent an effective assistance when carrying out returns of third country nationals.

4.5 Other phenomena observed

NOT DECLASSIFIED

Conclusion

SCIFA is invited to take note of this CIREFI summary report for the period January to June 2009.