



Council of the  
European Union

Brussels, 25 June 2015  
(OR. en)

10249/15

**LIMITE**

**JAI 501  
ASIM 42  
RELEX 513  
POLGEN 105**

**NOTE**

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From: The incoming Luxembourg Presidency  
To: Delegations  
Subject: Strategic coordination of the work of the Council preparatory bodies in the area of migration

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Delegations will find attached a Note on the above-mentioned subject.

**STRATEGIC COORDINATION OF THE WORK OF THE COUNCIL  
PREPARATORY BODIES IN THE AREA OF MIGRATION**

Coreper at its meeting on 4 and 5 March 2015 took note of the information provided and the suggestions made by the Trio of Presidencies, in consultation with the future Netherlands Presidency and in close cooperation with the Commission and the EEAS, regarding the organisation of the Council preparatory bodies, as set out in doc. 6589/15.

In accordance with these suggestions, the Latvian Presidency organised one joint meeting and one back to back meeting of SCIFA and HLWG, and has taken steps to ensure coordination of agendas and discussions in the two groups.

In continuation of these efforts, the Luxembourg Presidency proposes to start working on a short and concise paper on the Strategic Coordination of the work of the Council preparatory bodies in the area of migration, in order to better integrate the work on the internal and external aspects of migration and to improve the efficiency and coherence of the Council preparatory bodies in this area. The paper would define, under the responsibility of the Trio of Presidencies, the Strategic Coordination in the area of migration. It should be used to mainstream these priorities into the work of the Council preparatory bodies dealing with migration, in particular SCIFA and HLWG, but also other relevant thematic and geographical groups (CODEV, COHOM, etc.). This paper should not become yet another administrative burden, but should be short and concise, focusing on the main priorities and constituting a practical tool for improving efficiency and coherence.

For this purpose, the Luxembourg Presidency proposes the following:

1. After consultation with all relevant actors, in particular the Commission and the EEAS, and taking into account the technical and statistical input from the EU Agencies, the Presidency would in consultation with the incoming Trio of Presidencies (NL, SK, MT) start preparing a draft paper on Strategic Coordination with the objective of steering the work of these Presidencies throughout 18 months (1 January 2016 to 30 June 2017).

2. The paper should:
  - a) streamline different strands of thematic and geographical priorities from the EU agencies' analytical input and the plethora of existing instruments, programmes and political commitments so as to establish clear and coherent strategic priorities for the work of the Council preparatory bodies in the field of migration, especially by taking into account the EC Conclusions and the ongoing work on the European Agenda on Migration.
  - b) provide political impulse and serve as operational guidelines for the work of the Council preparatory bodies dealing with migration. The Chairs of these Council preparatory bodies would be responsible for mainstreaming the identified strategic priorities into the work of these bodies.
  - c) also make recommendations on the improvement of the working methods of the Council preparatory bodies as well as on the decision-making process in this area. Reorganisation or merger of reporting commitments under different initiatives (such as the EU Action on Migratory Pressures, TFM, JHA Council conclusions of October 2014, European Council conclusions of April 2015, Roadmap, European Agenda on Migration) within a clearly defined framework would be treated as a matter of priority.
  - d) look into ways to achieve better synchronization with the financial cycle of the MFF.
3. The Chairs of SCIFA and HLWG of the Trio of Presidencies would draft the Strategic Coordination paper, to be discussed in a joint SCIFA-HLWG meeting. The Trio of Presidencies could invite Coreper and Council to take note of the final paper at the beginning of the Trio of Presidencies (by means of a I/A note), with the understanding that the paper may be adjusted as necessary every six months in view of relevant developments in the areas concerned.

4. SCIFA and HLWG would be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Strategic Coordination paper so as to promote coherence between internal and external aspects of migration, while also taking into account the ongoing work related to migration in other Council preparatory bodies. At the end of the Trio of Presidencies, SCIFA and HLWG would make an evaluation on the implementation of the Strategic priorities.
5. The following Trio of Presidencies would make the necessary arrangements for the purpose of preparing a renewed Strategic Coordination paper in due time.

SCIFA and HLWG are invited to examine this note and to agree on the principle and methodology for the preparation of a Strategic Coordination paper for each Trio of Presidencies on the basis of the above.

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