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SEMDOC

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affairs in the European Union

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LIMITE

JAI 59

NOTE

from: Chairmanship of the K.4 Committee

to : Steering Groups I, II and III

Nos prev. docs: 11291/95 JAI 49 and 11636/95 PESC 297 NIS 125 JAI 53

Subject: **Cooperation with Russia in the field of Justice and Home Affairs**

1. At its meeting on 13 December 1995, the K.4 Committee examined, at the Permanent Representatives Committee's request, the conclusions of the Council of 20 and 21 November 1995 as regards a strategy for European Union/Russia relations (see 11636/95).

This particularly concerned the implementation of paragraph 7, which states that "*The European Union should foster cooperation in matters connected with Justice and Home Affairs by promoting the objectives of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement*".

2. The K.4 Committee's discussions were based on 11291/95 JAI 49 and resulted in the following guidelines, on the understanding that there was confirmation of the process of establishing the rule of law:

(a) Objectives

The European Union should foster cooperation in matters connected with Justice and Home Affairs. Consultations and improved collaboration should be encouraged to facilitate administrative and technical assistance, with the following objectives:

- controlling illegal immigration;
- issuing visas;
- readmission policy;
- combating trafficking, especially in nuclear and radioactive substances and stolen vehicles;
- combating international and organized crime, particularly drug-related crime;
- combating terrorism;
- combating money laundering;
- judicial assistance and cooperation, in particular by establishing a network of contacts.

(b) Methods

It was agreed that the holding of meetings between senior officials covering all the abovementioned subjects should be recommended.

Technical assistance in harmonizing laws could be given with the aim of supporting Russia's accession to the Council of Europe Conventions on mutual judicial assistance, including Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

3. It was agreed that:
- all duplication of effort must be avoided, particularly duplication of the work of the Council of Europe, if Russia acceded to that body;
 - contacts must be to some extent flexible and not amount to a structured dialogue;
 - the possibilities offered by Articles 81, 82 and 84 of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement must be used to the full.
4. The K.4 Committee agreed to ask the three Steering Groups to examine at their level at their next meetings in January the questions falling within their competence.

Finally, the Committee would reexamine this topic at its meeting on 19 January 1996 and would subsequently brief the Permanent Representatives Committee.

