

Brussels, 9 January 1998

5174/98

LIMITE

CIREFI 2  
ASIM 6

NOTE

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From : The Presidency  
To : CIREFI and the Visa Working Group

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Subject : Meetings between CIREFI and third countries during the UK Presidency

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This note sets out the Presidency's proposals concerning meetings between CIREFI and representatives of third countries during the first half of 1998. The Presidency would welcome comments from other delegations on these proposals and any suggestions as to other issues which might be addressed at these meetings.

Meeting with the CEECs and Cyprus, 18/19 May

2. The Presidency proposes to structure this meeting as follows:
  - (a) on 18 May there would be a one day meeting between CIREFI and representatives of the CEECs and Cyprus. It is not proposed to divide the meeting into separate geographical groupings of the associated states;
  - (b) on 19 May there would be a meeting between the Visa Working Group and visa experts from the associated states. This meeting would address work taken forward in the Visa Working Group during the UK Presidency on visa issuing practice and pre-entry controls in the associated states.
  
3. For the meeting on 18 May the Presidency would wish to concentrate on specific practical issues where the Member States and the CEECs/Cyprus may be able to share information on their practice and experience. The Presidency considers a suitable issue to be

returns to countries which present problems in taking back their own nationals. This would build upon work already undertaken by CIREFI and the inter-pillar discussions to which the Migration Working Group has contributed. By way of preparation the CEECs/Cyprus could be invited to submit information along the lines contained in document 9826/3/97 CIREFI 39 REV 3. It may be appropriate to identify particular third countries on which the meeting might focus. The Presidency's draft Action Plan also recommends that the issue of the influx of migrants from Iraq again be taken up with the CEECs and Cyprus.

4. The Presidency does not consider it necessary, in preparing for this meeting, to invite Member States to act as rapporteur in respect of particular associated states. These reports have been useful but the Presidency proposes that the dialogue between CIREFI and the CEECs/Cyprus should have a more specific practical focus. Nevertheless, subject to the views of delegations the Presidency would seek to arrange for the CEECs to update their responses to previous questionnaires contained in the document 5335/5/96 CIREFI 8 REV 5.

#### Meeting with USA/Canada, 15/16 June

5. The Presidency intends to have a one-day meeting between CIREFI and representatives of the US and Canada. It has not yet been decided whether this will be on the first or second of the two allocated days - the remaining day will be a regular CIREFI meeting.

6. The Presidency intends that this meeting should address the issue of removals in transit through airports on the territory of the EU and USA/Canada. A document has been prepared (13554/97 CIREFI 77) and delegations are invited to comment on this.

7. The Presidency would welcome delegations' views as to other issues which should be raised at this meeting. Again the Presidency would wish the meeting to have a practical focus. The Presidency will also be writing to the USA/Canada to invite their own suggestions as to subjects for discussion.