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LIMITE

CIREA 13
ASIM 16

NOTE

from : the Presidency

to : CIREA, Asylum Working Group and K4 Committee

Subject: CIREA's Medium-Term Work Programme

The report of the review of the work practices of CIREA stated the need to set out a medium-term work programme, to be agreed by CIREA and approved by K4. The work programme should be drawn up to cover a period of two years, although it will be reviewed on a periodic basis, at which stage it may be adjusted to take account of ongoing developments. This note sets out the medium-term work programme proposed by the Presidency and agreed at the CIREA meeting on 19 January 1998.

Medium-Term Work Programme

1. Country studies of Somalia, Sri Lanka, Former Yugoslavia (updates), Algeria, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan, Iran, Sierra Leone and Guinea.
2. Analysis of the exchange of information on the influx of migrants from Iraq and the neighbouring region further to the adoption of the Action Plan by the General Affairs Council (doc. 5573/98 ASIM 13).
3. Reports of missions to countries of origin of asylum seekers undertaken by Member States.
4. To explore disclosable information on conditions in countries of origin available in Foreign Ministries of Member States.

5. Further consideration of the confidentiality of CIREA documents.
 6. Exchange of information - storage and database user requirements.
 7. Statistics - improvement in the provision of a statistical service to CIREA, in consultation with the statistical office of the Commission (EUROSTAT) subject to progress in K4 Committee and Coreper on this matter.
 8. Studies into ad hoc topics of asylum interest such as the issue of the interpretation of "social group" within the terms of the 1951 Convention.
 9. External Relations meetings: (a) with the USA and Canada to explore further the role of country information and the exchange of that information; (b) to hold a first meeting of CIREA with the CEECs and Cyprus.
 10. To undertake other urgent commissions from Working Groups.
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