

6691/98

LIMITE

ASIM 70
FIN 52

"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from : General Secretariat

to : Coreper/Council

Subject: Adoption in the official languages of the Communities of:

- a Joint Action concerning the financing of specific projects in favour of displaced persons who have found temporary protection in the Member States and asylum-seekers
- a Joint Action concerning the financing of specific projects in favour of asylum-seekers and refugees

Coreper reached agreement on these two draft Joint Actions at its meeting on 26 February 1998.

The texts have since been finalized by the Working Party of Legal/Linguistic Experts, and Coreper is therefore requested to recommend that the Council should:

- adopt the draft Joint Actions as contained in 6420/98 ASIM 57 FIN 47 and 6421/98 ASIM 58 FIN 48;
- enter the attached statements in the minutes of its meeting;
- have the two Joint Actions published in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

**Statements for the minutes of the Council meeting
at which the two Joint Actions are adopted**

1. The Commission hereby gives an undertaking that, in the course of 1998, once it has been able to draw the lessons from the actions begun on an experimental basis in 1997, it will in good time submit initiatives to the Council aimed at developing further any actions in the areas covered by headings B7-6008 and B5-803, on the basis of an appropriate legal instrument.

2. The Council and the Commission state that the arrangements laid down in Article 4 of each of the Joint Actions take into account the experimental nature of the specific projects begun in 1998. To minimise costs and speed up the organisation of meetings, they agree that the Committee provided for in Article 4(2) and (3) will meet at the level of the Permanent Representations' Brussels-based counsellors responsible for refugee matters. They also agree that any legal instruments aimed at the further development of actions in the areas covered by headings B7-6008 and B6-803 will incorporate the decision-making system provided for in the Joint Action of 28 October 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on the European Union, on a programme of incentives and exchanges for legal practitioners (GROTIUS) OJ No L 287, 8.11.1996, page 3.

3. The Council and the Commission confirm that budget heading B7-6008 may be used for the funding of projects to assist the voluntary return of third-country nationals holding a permanent residence permit in one of the Member States.

4. Statement by the Danish delegation:
"The Danish delegation considers that there is no legal basis for the actions envisaged under budget heading B3-4113 and that a legal basis should be established similar to those which have been established for headings B5-803 and B7-6008."

These statements are to be released to the public.
