



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 30 March 1999 (26.04)
(OR. d)

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5001/3/99
REV 3

LIMITE

CIREFI 1
MIGR 16

NOTE

from : Presidency

to : CIREFI/Working Party on MIGRATION (Expulsion)

No. prev. doc. : 5001/2/99 CIREFI 1 REV 2

Subject : **Creation of an early warning system**
- Draft Resolution

There is every indication that a constant flow of illegal immigration controlled by facilitator networks will continue to threaten the Member States of the European Union. If illegal immigration is to be combated effectively the means of preventing it must be continually improved. Above all, the competent authorities must receive early information on imminent dangers and risks. The sooner they are made aware of incipient migratory flows, the more accurately they can prepare suitable counter-measures.

The existing exchange of statistical data therefore needs to be supplemented by a specific early warning system involving as many European countries of departure, transit and destination as possible.

The project adopted under the Austrian Presidency to "speed up information exchange on current illegal migration phenomena" (CIREFI 54 REV 2) is a first step towards establishing such a system, but still needs to be extended

Above all, it needs to include all the CCEE, through whose territory much of the immigration takes place.

The structure of the reporting system must be such that the States participating can be supplied with information immediately. To that end, the central authorities of the participating countries should communicate with one another directly. Information should be copied to the General Secretariat of the Council and the Commission.

It should be suggested to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe that the partnerships established for the statistical system be extended to implementation of the early warning system as well.

(Draft)

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

of 1999

**on the creation of an early warning system for the transmission of information on
illegal immigration and facilitator networks**

(1999/.../...)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

CONVINCED THAT all the indications, from intelligence gathered and experience, are that a constant flow of illegal immigration controlled by international facilitator networks continues to threaten the Member States of the European Union,

HAVING REGARD TO the existing regular exchange of statistical data in the context of CIREFI,

RECOGNISING THE NEED, if illegal immigration is to be combated effectively, for the competent authorities to receive early information on dangers and risks as they emerge, so that they can better prepare suitable counter-measures,

AWARE that such an early warning system must also include all the CCEE, through whose territory much of the immigration takes place,

AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. An early warning system is hereby created in the framework of CIREFI cooperation. Its purpose shall be to provide for immediate information on
 - first indications of illegal immigration and facilitator networks, particularly in the countries in which migration originates, and
 - events and incidents which herald new developments in the field of illegal immigration and facilitating and which represent a threat such that immediate counter-measures are required. The signs include: concentrations of specific nationalities, perceptible changes in routes and methods, new types of large-scale travel document forgery, doubling of the monthly figures for illegal immigrants stopped at an external land border with a neighbouring State or in air or sea traffic and large-scale facilitation, i.e. roughly groups of over 40 people.
2. Exchanges of information shall relate to non-personal data.
3. This reporting system shall be without prejudice to the existing procedure for forwarding statistical data. Other systems for the exchange of information (bilateral systems, for example) shall likewise be unaffected.
4. The participants in the early warning system shall be the EU Member States.
5. States with which the European Union is holding accession negotiations may take part if they inform the General Secretariat of the Council in writing of their willingness to do so.
6. The forwarding of information as laid down in point 1 may be totally or partially suspended if deemed appropriate on security or other essential grounds.
7. Where information as provided for in point 1 is exchanged, the standard form as specified in 11091/2/98 CIREFI 54 REV 2 shall be used. The suitability of the form shall be kept under constant review.

8. Each participating State shall, if it has not already done so in compliance with 11091/2/98 CIREFI 54 REV 2, designate a central office to deal with exchanges of information. Information shall be copied to the General Secretariat of the Council and to the Commission.
9. In preparation for the CIREFI meeting, information forwarded will be collated within the General Secretariat of the Council.





**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 28 April 1999

5001/3/99
REV 3
COR 1

LIMITE

CIREFI 1
MIGR 16

CORRIGENDUM TO NOTE

from	Presidency
to	CIREFI/Working Party on MIGRATION (Expulsion)
No. prev. doc.:	5001/2/99 CIREFI 1 REV 2
Subject :	Creation of an early warning system - Draft Resolution

On page 3, the fourth recital should read as follows .

“AWARE that such an early warning system must also include all the countries **which are candidates for accession to the European Union**, through whose territory much of the immigration takes place,”

On page 4, point 5 should read as follows :

“5. **States which are candidates for accession to the European Union** may take part if they inform the General Secretariat of the Council in writing of their willingness to do so.”