



EUROPEAN UNION  
THE COUNCIL

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**SEMDOC**  
Statewatch European Documentation &  
Monitoring Centre on justice and home  
affairs in the European Union

PO Box 1516, London N16 0EW, UK  
tel: 0181 802 1882 (00 44 181 802 1882)  
fax: 0181 880 1727 (00 44 181 880 1727)

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**NOTE**

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from : Austrian delegation  
to : Frontiers Working Party

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**Subject : Information on the "Future External Borders" Seminars for the Associated States in October and November 1999**

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The Austrian Ministry of the Interior in co-operation with ICMPD (International Centre for Migration Policy Development) and under the auspices of the European Commission, Odysseus Programme, is organising a series of seminars on External Border Control/Illegal Immigration for the eleven Associated States to enter the European Union. In the course of the accession of these countries to the European Union, some of their borders will sooner or later become external borders of the Union.

The seminars aim at assisting the Associated States of Central and Eastern Europe and Cyprus in their efforts to align with EU standards and practises concerning the combat of illegal immigration through effective border management and at fostering practical co-operation among border guard officials of EU and Associated States, and the latter also among themselves.

The first seminar for five candidate countries (Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovenia and Estonia) was held in Klagenfurt, Austria between 19 - 23 October 1998. The introductory seminar for Cyprus took place from 17 - 21 May 1999 in Cyprus, concerning in particular sea-borders. The seminar for the additional five Associated States (Romania, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Lithuania and Latvia) was held in Burgenland, Austria between 21 - 25 June 1999.

All the introductory seminars have therefore been held, and a second round of „follow-up“ seminars - the so called **„Future External Borders“** seminars - are now being planned to take place for the eleven Associated States. While the first round of seminars were of a more general nature i.e. providing basic knowledge and insight into the practises and co-operation concerning border management in the EU, **the second round of seminars will be more adapted to the specific interests/needs of the respective candidate countries undergoing the training.** The agenda of the seminars will be developed in close co-operation with the participating Associated States and EU-Member States and will also focus on best practices.

All eleven Associated States will, for organisational reasons, be divided into three groups and meet in three locations in Central and Eastern Europe as follows:

**Seminar 1:**

<b>Candidate Countries:</b>	<b>Seminar Venue:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Slovenia	Sofia/Bulgaria	6 – 8 October 1999

**Seminar 2:**

<b>Candidate Countries:</b>	<b>Seminar Venue:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Cyprus	Tallinn/Estonia	20 – 22 October 1999

**Seminar 3:**

<b>Candidate Countries:</b>	<b>Seminar Venue:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland	Kosice/Slovakia	3 – 5 November 1999

All Candidate Countries are invited to nominate five participants to the respective seminar.

The Associated states will have on one day of the seminar the opportunity to present their border control system, emphasis will thereby be given in Bulgaria to the checks at airports, in Estonia to the control of sea-borders and in Slovakia to the surveillance of land-borders.

It is hoped that each Member State will also contribute to the effort undertaken by the Austrian Ministry and ICMPD as to send experts in the field of border management/control to the planned Seminars in order to assist the Candidate Countries in adopting the EU/Schengen Acquis.

With respect to the expenses - the flight costs (economy class), accommodation and meals for the participants from the Candidate Countries and for the EU-experts are covered by the Project's Budget.

As an introduction letter with the above mentioned information (including a form for the nomination of a contact person) has been sent to all Member States and the Associated States at the beginning of September already, each Member State and also the European Commission are now with this invitation once again invited to nominate relevant experts to each of the seminars according to the particular needs of the Candidate Countries and interests of the Member States.

For organisational questions and other inquiries regarding the seminars please contact the Project Manager at ICMPD: (tel.: + 43 - 1 - 504 46 77 - 23, fax.: + 43 - 1-504 46 77 - 75) and e-mail: Robert.Schweighofer@icmpd.org

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