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EUROPEAN UNION  
THE COUNCIL

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#### **OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS**

of :	Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum
dated :	21 October 1999

1. The agenda as set out in telex 4467 dated 13 October 1999 was adopted with the addition of the items raised under "Other Business" (see point 9 below).
2. **Tampere European Council - Presidency briefing and follow up**

The **Presidency** recalled the four policy areas flowing from the Tampere European Council conclusions of particular interest for the Strategic Committee, viz.:

- partnership with countries of origin of migrants and asylum seekers
- a common asylum system
- migration policy and the treatment of third country nationals including non-discrimination and a dynamic integration policy
- combating illegal immigration

and confirmed that the Presidency and the Commission would be submitting a technical working paper setting out a work plan for the implementation of the European Council conclusions.

During the ensuing exchange of views, delegations welcomed the European Council conclusions and looked forward to receiving the technical working paper setting out priorities for their implementation. Highlighted by various delegations as being of particular importance were the common asylum system (section II of the conclusions), the full respect of the Geneva convention (point 13), temporary protection and solidarity (point 16), the fair treatment of third country nationals (section III), the role of information campaigns (point 22), combating illegal immigration at its source (point 23) and the protection of the Union's external borders (point 24).

Several delegations underlined the importance of the Strategic Committee's role in determining *inter alia* the rhythm and calendar of working group meetings in order to ensure the timely transposition of the European Council conclusions.

The Presidency indicated that the committee would return to this item at its next meeting on the basis of the technical working paper.

3. **Eurodac**  
**- State of play**  
11869/99 EURODAC 15

The **Strategic Committee** noted the state of play on the draft Eurodac Regulation as set out in 11869/99. Agreeing on the need to bring the work on the draft Regulation to a successful conclusion as soon as possible, the Committee looked forward to the Council at its meeting on 29 October 1999 giving the necessary impetus for the work to be taken forward expeditiously and agreed to return to this item at its next meeting when it hoped to be able to take into account the opinion of the European Parliament expected for mid-November 1999.

Several delegations regretted that the Committee was being asked to simply take note of the state of play at this stage believing that it was important for the Committee to address the substantive issues at its level in order to give direction to the work to be undertaken in the next working party meetings.

4. **Assistance for Turkey in detecting false or falsified travel documents**  
10208/99 MIGR 52

The **German delegation** introduced 10208/99 and in particular section III which contained proposals to

- make available to the Turkish authorities specimens of EU travel documents
- begin, preferably still during the course of 1999, training seminars for police officers assigned to passport control in cross-border traffic, financed through the Odysseus programme
- study the possibility of providing Turkey with appropriate technical equipment for the detection of false or forged documents either through Community funding or through financing by the Member States which are more directly concerned.

While **delegations** generally supported the thrust of the German delegation's approach, **several of them** drew attention to the need to consider the proposals contained in 10208/99 in the light of

- the Action Plan drawn up by the High Level Working Group on Asylum and Migration (HLWG) on Iraq taking due account also of the financing needs of the other Action Plans drawn up by the HLWG
- the funding needs of other EU strategies.

The **Commission representative** indicated in particular that any projects for training seminars under the Odysseus programme would at this stage have to be introduced in the framework of the programme for the year 2000.

Following a brief exchange of views the **Committee** agreed to invite

- the **HLWG** to give consideration to the financial aspects of the proposals contained in 10208/99
- the **Frontiers Working Party** to consider the short-term technical measures which could be envisaged.

5. **Consequences of the Treaty of Amsterdam on readmission clauses in Community agreements and in agreements between the European Community, its Member States and third countries**  
11052/99 MIGR 58

The outcome of the Committee's discussions with regard to the standard readmission clauses to be inserted in future Community and mixed agreements is set out in 12134/99.

In the context of the discussion of this item the **Commission representative** felt that the Strategic Committee should at some stage address the issue of establishing detailed provision on readmission to be inserted in future cooperation or association agreements in the form of protocols or to be negotiated as stand-alone readmission agreements.

With a view to identifying countries with which such agreements might be negotiated, the **Committee** agreed that the Member States should communicate to the Secretariat a list of the countries with which, in their view, Community readmission agreements should be concluded (cf. telex 4652 of 22 October 1999).

6. **Common Strategy of the European Union on the Mediterranean region**

The outcome of the Committee's discussions on this point is set out in 12326/99.

7. **External relations:**

a) Turkey

The **Committee** noted the content of a draft letter to be sent by the Presidency to the Turkish authorities setting out the topics to be discussed at the forthcoming meeting to be held with Turkey in Helsinki in November 1999.

b) Canada

The **Presidency** informed the Committee that it intended to raise the results of the Tampere European Council with the Canadian administration at the meeting scheduled to take place in Ottawa at the end of October 1999.

8. **Draft Protocol against the smuggling of migrants by land, air and sea, and draft Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking of persons, especially women and children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime**

The **Committee** took note of the outcome of the discussions in the Multidisciplinary Group on Organised Crime on 20 October 1999 concerning the above draft protocols.

9. **Other business**

- a) Delegations received 11986/99 CIREFI 54 COMIX 342 (RESTREINT) which would be placed on the agenda of the next meeting.
- b) The **Netherlands delegation**, supported by the **French delegation** and the **Commission representative**, drew attention to the need to ensure proper EU coordination both in Brussels and on-the-spot for international meetings in fora such as the Council of Europe (CAHAR meetings) and the United Nations (in Vienna).