

Resolution on certain common guidelines as regards the admission of particularly vulnerable persons from the former Yugoslavia

Introduction

Resolution on certain common guidelines as regards the admission of particularly vulnerable persons from the former Yugoslavia (adopted Copenhagen, 1 June 1993 by the meeting of immigration ministers). Reaffirmed the principle of regional "safe havens" and defined more closely persons who would be given temporary protection within the EC (the injured, ex-prisoners of war and those coming directly from combat zones).

Resolution on certain common guidelines as regards the admission of particularly vulnerable persons from the former Yugoslavia

Reference:

Ad Hoc Group on Immigration. Agreed in Copenhagen on 1 June 1993 at the meeting of Immigration Ministers.

Subject: Resolution on certain common guidelines as regards the admission of particularly vulnerable persons from the former Yugoslavia

The Ministers recorded their agreement on the above Resolution.

RESOLUTION ON CERTAIN COMMON GUIDELINES
AS REGARDS THE ADMISSION OF PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE
GROUPS OF PERSONS FROM THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

THE MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
RESPONSIBLE FOR IMMIGRATION IN THE MEMBER STATES OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, meeting in Copenhagen on 1 and 2 June
1993,

CONCERNED at the continuing humanitarian crisis in the former
Yugoslavia,

RECALLING the common position adopted by the European
Community and its Member States at the Geneva Conference of 29
July 1 992 organized by the United Nations High Commissioner
for Refugees,

RECALLING the conclusions of the European Council meeting held
on 11 and 12 December 1 992 in Edinburgh,

DECLARING their support for the work carried out both within
and outside the former Yugoslavia by the United Nations High
Commissioner for Refugees and by other humanitarian
organizations.

EMPHASISING that, in accordance with the approach of the

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees that protection and assistance should wherever possible be provided in the region of origin, they consider that displaced persons should be helped to remain in safe areas situated as close as possible to their homes, and that the efforts of the Member States should be aimed at creating safe conditions for these persons and sufficient funds for them to be able to remain in these areas,

REAFFIRMING their willingness, in co-operation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to admit, according to their possibilities, particularly vulnerable persons in order to afford them temporary protection,

HAVE ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

1. Member States, in compliance with their national procedures and laws, will take suitable measures for the admittance, within the limits of the possibilities of each Member State, of particularly vulnerable persons from the former Yugoslavia in order to afford them temporary protection.

These arrangements are especially intended to apply to:

(a) persons from the former Yugoslavia who:

- have been held in a prisoner-of-war or internment camp and cannot otherwise be saved from a threat to life or limb;
- are injured or seriously ill and for whom medical treatment cannot be obtained locally;
- are under a direct threat to life or limb and whose protection cannot otherwise be secured;
- have been subjected to sexual assault, provided that there is no suitable means for assisting them in safe areas situated as close as possible to their homes;

(b) persons from the former Yugoslavia who have come directly from combat zones within their borders and who cannot return to their homes because of the conflict and human rights abuses.

2. Member States will endeavour to administer such arrangements on the basis of the overall objective that persons from the former Yugoslavia who are admitted to the Member States and given temporary protection are to return to an area in the former Yugoslavia in which they can live in safety as soon as the conditions in that area make it possible to do so safely.
3. Each Member State will make every effort to take the measures required to enable the persons concerned to stay on its territory temporarily within the framework of the

general objective referred to in point 2.

To that end Member States will in particular ensure the implementation of principles conducive to conditions in which the persons admitted to their territory can live in dignity during their stay.

Those principles shall include the following:

- the persons concerned shall be entitled to stay temporarily as far as is possible until conditions are suitable for their return, unless their stay constitutes a threat to public order, national security or the international relations of the Member States;
- arrangements must be made for access to resources which allow them to live in decent conditions. Each Member State will determine the appropriate level and the means of achieving this, whether by earnings from work, exceptional aid or social benefits; they will pay special attention to the possibilities for housing the persons admitted;
- Member States will pay due heed to the possibilities for access to health care, each Member State determining the arrangements for setting up this benefit;
- Member States will make every endeavour to ensure children can develop normally. To that end the host State will in particular ensure that they can attend school;
- as far as is possible, arrangements will be made for contacts to be maintained with close relatives (spouses and children who are minors). In exceptional circumstances, in particular on humanitarian grounds; provisional permission to stay may be granted for this purpose;
- whenever possible, the persons concerned will be informed of the conditions of stay in the host country;
- as far as is possible, with the involvement of local authorities and associations, displaced persons will be encouraged to take part in the host country's cultural and social activities.

These principles will be implemented in respect both of persons whose admission has been organized directly by the Member States and of those who make their own way to national territory once they have been granted provisional leave to stay. Member States will in this regard be motivated by the traditions of respect for the rights of the individual on which the European Community is built.