

4532/96

LIMITE

JAI 4

NOTE

from: Presidency of the K.4 Committee

to : ~~Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)~~

~~Nos prev. docs: 11291/95 JAI 49, 11636/95 PESC 297 NIS 125 JAI 53 and
12916/95 JAI 59~~

Subject: **Cooperation with RUSSIA in the field of Justice and Home Affairs**

1. At its meeting on 19 January 1996, the K.4 Committee examined, at the Permanent Representatives Committee's request, the conclusions of the Council of 20 and 21 November 1995 as regards a strategy for European Union/Russia relations (see 11636/95).

This particularly concerned the implementation of paragraph 7, which states that *"The European Union should foster cooperation in matters connected with Justice and Home Affairs by promoting the objectives of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement"*.

2. The K.4 Committee's discussions were based on 11291/95 JAI 49 and 12916/95 JAI 59, and on the discussions of the Steering Groups (4287/96 JAI 1) and resulted in the following guidelines:

(a) Objectives

The European Union should foster cooperation in matters connected with Justice and Home Affairs. Consultations and improved collaboration should be encouraged to facilitate administrative and technical assistance, with the following objectives:

- controlling illegal immigration;
- asylum policy;
- issuing visas;
- readmission policy;
- combating trafficking, especially in nuclear and radioactive substances and stolen vehicles;
- combating international and organized crime, particularly drug-related crime;
- combating terrorism;
- combating money laundering;
- judicial assistance and cooperation in accordance with the Council of Europe Convention, in particular by establishing a network of contacts.

(b) Methods

It was agreed that the holding of meetings between senior officials covering all the abovementioned subjects should be recommended.

Technical assistance in harmonizing laws which does not duplicate the work of the Council of Europe could be given with the aim of supporting Russia's accession to the Council of Europe Conventions on mutual judicial assistance, including Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

The Committee emphasized the possibilities offered by the TACIS programme for providing assistance in the areas referred to in (b).

3. It was agreed that:

- contacts must be to some extent flexible and not amount to a structured dialogue;
- the possibilities offered by Articles 81, 82 and 84 of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement must be used to the full.