EUROPEAN UNION
THE COUNCIL

Brussels, 23 March 1994 (13.04)
(OR. f)

5812/94

RESTREINT

ASIM 65

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of: Group on Asylum

~~on: 17 March 1994~~

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Group adopted the agenda as set out in Telex 536 of 8 March 1994 and agreed to include the items appearing under "Other business".

2. Common action on the harmonized application of the definition of refugee status in Article 1A of the 1951 Geneva Convention [WGI 1633 REV 1]

The Group examined this question further. The Danish delegation entered a scrutiny reservation. The outcome of the discussions is contained in WGI 1633 REV 2.

The Presidency put forward a draft questionnaire on the meaning of the term "persecution" as used in Article 1A of the Geneva Convention [5657/94 ASIM 61]. The Group held an exchange of views on the subject. The Spanish delegation said that it was willing to submit a text which might help in drawing up this questionnaire. The Group agreed to discuss this matter further at a later date.

The Group also took note of a letter to the Presidency from the HCR office, making suggestions regarding the current discussions. It agreed to examine them at a future meeting.

2. <u>Consideration of the definition of minimum guarantees offered by procedures for examining asylum applications</u> [4354/94 ASIM 9 and 5289/94 ASIM 51]

The Group held an exchange of views on the above document. The outcome of the discussions is contained in 5289/94 ASIM 51 REV 1.

The Group agreed to discuss the matter further at a future meeting.

4. <u>Dublin Convention</u>

(a) Standard form for determining the State responsible for examining an application for asylum [4533/94 ASIM 23]

Several delegations commented on the Presidency's suggestions in 4533/94 ASIM 23.

Some delegations entered scrutiny reservations. The French delegation said that it intended to make suggestions at a future meeting.

(b) Exchange of views on the monitoring of the implementation of the Dublin Convention

The Group noted that the Council Legal Service would be submitting a draft text on the rules of procedure for the Committee provided for in Article 18 at a forthcoming meeting.

(c) Progress of ratifications of the Dublin Convention

The Group noted in particular that:

– in the Netherlands, the ratification bill would be submitted to Parliament before the end of March 1994;

– in Spain, the relevant procedures had already begun.

5. (poss.) Exchange of views on the possibility of taking the Resolutions adopted by the Ministers in London as a basis for common action or a Convention

The Group agreed to discuss this item at a future meeting.

6. Other business

(a) Exchange of views on the repatriation of Albanians from Kosovo

The Group took note of a statement by the German delegation to the effect that contacts between Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland on the one hand and the authorities in Skopje on the other hand had not resulted in any concrete results regarding the repatriation of Albanians from Kosovo.

(b) Meeting on temporary protection

The Group noted that the informal meeting of government experts would be held at the HCR offices in Geneva on 23 March 1994. One delegation wanted the positions of the Member States at that meeting to be as close as possible, in the light of discussions held within the European Union.

(c) EURODAC

The Belgian delegation said that it was prepared to submit a document on the relevant criteria, in preparation for the meeting which would probably be held on 6 April 1994.