

4912/95

RESTREINT

CIREA 17

## OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

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of: CIREA

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on: 13 February 1995

### **1. Adoption of the agenda**

The Working party adopted the agenda as set out in Telex No 410 of 7 February 1995.

### **2. Exchange of information on asylum**

At the request of the Danish delegation (see 4699/95 CIREA 9), CIREA held an exchange of views on legislation applicable in Member States on the possibility of granting a residence permit to asylum-seekers who did not fulfil the requirements laid down in the 1951 Convention relating to the status of refugees.

The Working Party also noted an oral submission from:

- the Spanish delegation on the new legislation adopted internally;
- the Netherlands delegation concerning decisions adopted nationally aimed at implementing the concept of safe country where in general there was no risk of persecution and concerning the concept of host third country.

The Working Party also noted 4866/95 CIREA 12 dealing with statistical and other information provided by delegations.

### **3. Preparation for the next meeting of CIREA**

The Working Party:

- agreed to place "examination of the situation in Zaire" on the agenda for the next meeting of CIREA scheduled for 6 April 1995. It noted the wish expressed by Denmark to deal with the situation in Russia;
- was favourably disposed to having contact with the HCR at the next meeting;
- wished to have available then the joint report on Zaire, drawn up by the CFSP.

The Working Party noted the desire of some delegations to concentrate examination of certain countries of origin in which asylum-seekers originated in subgroups, which would then report to CIREA on the outcome. The Chairman did not rule out the possibility of presenting a document at a forthcoming meeting.

### **4. Other business**

#### **(a) joint missions in asylum-seekers' countries of origin**

The French delegation made an oral statement on the mission to Sri Lanka from 10 September to 2 October 1994 with particular reference to obtaining a clearer understanding of certain official documents issued by the Sri Lankan authorities (see 4604/95 CIREA 5).

CIREA then discussed the value of joint missions in asylum-seekers' countries of origin on the basis of 4603/95 CIREA 4.

Such missions would not duplicate the reports drawn up by the CFSP as they would be carried out in close liaison with Member States' Embassies on the spot.

All delegations welcomed the initiative although some delegations would have preferred more time to consider the financial implications and the arrangements for carrying out such missions.

CIREA agreed to examine the question at its next meeting, in particular the question of where such a mission could take place.

**(b) Joint report drawn up by the CFSP on Sri Lanka**

The Working Party took note of 4623/95 PESC 29 CIREA 6 drawn up by the CFSP on Sri Lanka. Delegations were asked to forward any comments on the report to the General Secretariat of the Council.

**5. Examination of the situation of certain third States in which applications for asylum originate: Sri Lanka**

The Working Party discussed the situation in Sri Lanka in depth regarding:

- the general (including the political) situation in the country, the statistical data and the classification of the Sri Lankan application;
- the practice followed regarding recognition of Sri Lankan applications;
- expulsion of asylum-seekers who have been refused entry.

The CIREA experts had an opportunity at the meeting to hear the point of view of the HCR representative who was in attendance for the first time.

At the meeting CIREA took account of:

- the inventory of Member States' replies to the questionnaire on Sri Lanka (4829/95 CIREA 10 + ADD 1 + ADD 2 + ADD 3);
- the information note prepared by the HCR (4909/95 CIREA 14);
- the report by the French delegation on the mission carried out in Sri Lanka (4604/95 CIREA 5);
- documents provided by Switzerland on its experience with Sri Lanka in the matter of asylum (4853/95 CIREA 11).