EUROPEAN UNION
THE COUNCIL

Brussels, September 13, 1996

9875/96

LIMITE

ASIM 125

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

from : Migration Working Party

dated : 2 September 1996

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Working Party adopted the agenda set out in telex n° 3270 of 30 July 1996.

The following points were added under item 8 (Other business):

- Seminar with the USA on the subject of "Migration from the South";

- EU-Mediterranean dialogue in the context of the Barcelona Declaration on Cooperation between the European Union and its Mediterranean partners and of the Taormina high-level meeting on organized crime.

2. Presentation of the programme of the Irish Presidency
doc. 8605/1/96 ASIM REV 1

The Presidency indicated that, further to the K.4 Committee meeting of 25 July, the subject of travel facilitation for third country nationals residing in another Member State had been postponed.

The Presidency further announced that, following the Vienna Conference on trafficking in women for the purpose of sexual exploitation, the Commission would produce a comprehensive communication on the trafficking of persons, which could provide a programme for future work in the third pillar. It also indicated that Steering Group I should in principle be entrusted with main responsibility for this subject. The Commission representative stressed that the main lines of this communication would be presented to the informal Council to be held at 26/27 September in Dublin.

The Presidency observed that work on the treatment of un-accompanied minors who are not asylum-seekers will be considered afresh on the basis of the outcome of the work done in the Asylum Working Party on the treatment of un-accompanied minor asylum-seekers.

The Commission announced that it intended to submit the results of a study on cooperation with countries of origin and transit countries.

3. **Monitoring of the implementation of texts already adopted concerning the admission of third-country nationals (see telex n° 2745 of 20.6.95)**

Since a number of Member States had not sent in their replies, the Secretariat would send out a reminder, setting out the new time limit of 10 September.

4. **Monitoring of the implementation of texts adopted in the field of migration (expulsion) of third-country nationals**

A synopsis of the suggestions made by Member States in this field, as well as a list of the recommendations adopted so far, can be found in doc. 9666/96 ASIM 118. The Presidency announced a Draft Council Decision creating the framework for this monitoring (see doc. 9675/96 ASIM 121).

5. **Uniform format for residence (and work) permits**
doc. 8608/96 ASIM 97
(continuation of the discussion started in the Visa Group at 24 July 1996, see doc. 9448/96 ASIM 112, page 1)

This item was dealt with after item 6 (see below).

6. **Limitation of the number of identity, residence, and travel documents**
- **policy debate (continuation of the discussion started in the Visa Group at 24 July 1996, see doc. 9448/96 ASIM 112, page 5)**
docs 6990/96 ASIM 71
6491/2/96 ASIM 58 REV2
11843/95 ASIM 320
4171/96/94 ASIM 5

Most delegations did not see for the time being the need for a Council declaration of intent, as had been suggested by the Belgian delegation in doc. 11843/95 ASIM 320, page 4, and favoured a step-by-step approach, for which it was felt that the proposal under item 5 hereafter formed a good element.

5. Uniform format for residence (and work) permits

All delegations welcomed in principle the Swedish initiative and agreed that it should be restricted to residence permits alone and would not cover work permits. It was underlined furthermore that, at present, the only objective of the initiative is the harmonization of the format of residents permits and not their material content, which would require modification of national legislation. The format however should foresee special lines in which each Member State can indicate, e.g. the precise denomination of the title, and where appropriate, information whether this title includes an authorization to work. Several delegations said that they would like to have an assessment of the categories of persons which might be covered by the residence permit in question.

Delegations also agreed that the new format should satisfy high security standards, as has been provided for by the recently introduced uniform visa format (Reg. 1683/95) and that the technical committee foreseen in that regulation could be of use also in this context.

A major question discussed by the Group was whether the new format should be introduced into the passport through a sticker similar to the uniform visa format or should be a stand alone card. The majority of delegations seem to favour the sticker solution bearing in mind that the technical know-how and equipment exists through the relevant visa regulation. Other delegations (F, ES, NL, P) preferred a stand alone card according with their national practice. The French delegation pointed out that in the case of a sticker a particular problem would arise if, as it happens frequently for long term residence permits, these permits have a longer validity than the passport of the person concerned. A sticker would therefore be appropriate only for short term permits.

The UK delegation stressed that any solution should take into account the length of time needed to provide for it, a stamp into the passport being the easiest and quickest solution.
The Belgian delegation felt that any solution should, if possible, lead to travel facilities of the concerned persons.

The German delegation thought that asylum seekers should not be provided with the permits in question and that a long term permit should visibly distinct from short term permits, for example by means of a different colour.

7. Consideration concerning the Budapest Group meeting (3 and 4 October 1996)

The Presidency went through the background paper of the forthcoming Oslo meeting (doc. 9664/96 ASIM 117).

The Belgian delegation recalled its involvement with Poland in an initiative on the trafficking in human beings. It appealed to other delegations for support of its amendment, which would be circulated in Oslo. The Presidency invited this delegation to circulate the new proposal in writing.

The Commission suggested that the positions of the Member States in this area should be coordinated well in advance, not only on the spot, but also in Brussels.

It was decided that the Migration Working Party would be kept fully informed of all future developments of this matter and would carry on coordination in preparation of the Oslo meeting (3 and 4 October 1996).

8. Other business

a. **Seminar on Migration from North to South to be held with US experts**

The Commission representative provided information on the seminar, to be held in or near Dublin in December, and undertook to give more information as it becomes available.

b. **EU-Mediterranean dialogue in the context of the Barcelona Declaration on Cooperation between the European Union and its Mediterranean partners and of the Taormina high-level meeting on organized crime**
doc. 7984/96 ENFOPOL 99, MED 40

Follow up of the Barcelona Declaration and the high-level meeting in Taormina).

A document, produced by Spain on the migration aspects for the Toarmina meeting (doc. 9674/96 ASIM 120) will be discussed at the Migration Group's meeting (18 September 1996), with a view to the preparation of a possible EU-meeting on ministerial level.