EUROPEAN UNION
THE COUNCIL

Brussels, 18 March 1997 (26.03)
(OR. f)

6731/97

LIMITE

CIREFI 10

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of : CIREFI

on: 11 March 1997

1. **Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda in Telex No 771 of 8 January 1997 was adopted with one amendment concerning the order of the items and with the addition under "Other business" of items (a) to (e).

2. **Proposal for the establishment of a European information and analysis system in the field of illegal immigration and organized immigration crime (item 3 on the agenda)**
5344/1/97 CIREFI 4 REV 1

The German delegation presented CIREFI 4. The aim of this measure was to create an instrument to combat rising illegal immigration, 60% of which was directly linked to the activities of facilitators. For such an instrument to be useful and effective, all those European States which were sources of facilitators and illegal immigrants should be involved.

In view of the fact that the States of Central and Eastern Europe could not participate in CIREFI meetings as members in their own right, the solution recommended in the proposal was to set up a clearing house to collect and analyse information and to devise operational measures.

The success of the operation would be jeopardized unless care were taken to ensure consistency in analysing the information collected. For this reason the document in question suggested that the EDU/EUROPOL should carry out the analysis. To avoid placing excessive financial demands on delegations, it was proposed that each

Member State should provide the Europol Drugs Unit with a national expert on the basis of a temporary secondment.

With the exception of the French, Spanish and Portuguese delegations, which entered scrutiny reservations, all delegations stressed the high quality of the document submitted by the German delegation. The Belgian, Danish and Austrian delegations indicated their agreement and were keen to set up the proposed clearing house as soon as possible. However, the Swedish and Irish delegations felt it would be advisable to postpone discussion of the measure until the Council had given its opinion on reviewing CIREFI's working methods and on improving the collation of statistics.

In reply, the German and Austrian delegations emphasized how urgently this measure was needed to combat rising illegal immigration.

As an alternative, the Commission representative suggested increasing the number of meetings with the CCEE in CIREFI through the framework of the structured dialogue.

This eventuality would be considered by delegations at the same time as the content of the German proposal in preparation for the next meeting on 7 and 8 April. The Presidency would inform the Chairman of Steering Group I of the progress of CIREFI's discussions on the subject.

3. CIREFI statistics (item 2 on the agenda)

a. Analysis of the statistics already collected by CIREFI 5917/97 CIREFI 8

This concerned a document drawn up by the Netherlands Presidency. CIREFI welcomed the content of the document. Agreement was reached within CIREFI to enable experts from the Belgian, German, Netherlands and United Kingdom delegations to meet the General Secretariat in order to complete an evaluation aimed at improving the collection and analysis of CIREFI's statistical data. A report on the outcome of this meeting would be sent to CIREFI.

b. **Evaluation of definitions**

Replies to telex no 785

The General Secretariat reported on the replies it had received to the above telex. Once all delegations had responded, a compilation of the replies would be drawn up and forwarded.

c. **Proposal for the evaluation of the exchange and analysis of statistical data concerning false documents**
11906/96 ASIM 165

The Presidency informed CIREFI of the decision by the False Documents Working Party to give the Centre responsibility for collecting, processing and analysing the data considered necessary, and for reporting back to the False Documents Working Party on the progress made.

CIREFI welcomed this proposal. To enable delegations to examine the subject in greater depth, the General Secretariat distributed copies of 8531/1/96 ASIM 93 REV 1 containing the statistics on false documents for the first half of 1996, and requested those delegations which had not yet done so to send in their figures for the second half.

4. **Preparation of the meeting with the CCEE**
5335/3/96 CIREFI 8 REV 3

The Commission representative gave a detailed presentation of the ways the PHARE programme was being applied in the area of JHA.

The General Secretariat circulated copies of 5335/4/96 CIREFI 8 REV 4 which was not simply an updated version but which also contained new information relating to the carrier's liability. A further revision would be produced as soon as the General Secretariat received data from Slovenia.

As regards the reports to be supplied by the delegations listed in 5665/97 CIREFI 7, the Presidency requested that they be forwarded to the General Secretariat by 27 March 1997 (final date).

5. **Enforcement strategies and priorities in the Expulsion area**
5370/97 ASIM 11 CIREFI 6
Presentation by the United Kingdom delegation

The United Kingdom delegation presented 5370/97 ASIM 11 CIREFI 6. This concerned a matter which should be dealt with jointly by the Working Party on Migration (for the political and legislative aspects) and by CIREFI (for the practical aspects).

The Centre welcomed the initiative and decided to produce a questionnaire via the Presidency. However, certain delegations (Spanish, Danish, Portuguese and Austrian) pointed out the importance of taking account of CIREFI's work in this area (4588/4/96 CIREFI 3 REV 4 and 6072/4/96 CIREFI 11 REV 4),so as to continue along the same lines when the questionnaire was sent out. The Spanish, Danish and Portuguese delegations also requested that, before the questionnaire was circulated, the subject should be discussed with experts on migration at the forthcoming meeting of the Asylum Working Party on 19 and 20 March 1997.

6. **Report of the Presidency concerning contact with EDU/EUROPOL and IGC Geneva**

The Presidency informed the Centre of the outcomes of two meetings held in December 1996 and January 1997 with the EDU/EUROPOL and of the setting up by the IGC of the TIES. A document containing the details will be drawn up by the Presidency and forwarded to delegations.

7. **Other business**

a. **Organization of work for the Centre's meeting on 7 and 8 April**

The Presidency explained that the meeting on 7 April would be a normal CIREFI meeting. The morning of 8 April would be devoted to statistics and delegations were requested to send along their statistical experts for this item. Finally, the afternoon of 8 April would be given over to a meeting between experts on the traffic in human beings. This meeting would be chaired by an expert from the Netherlands delegation who would present a national report on the subject.

b. Request to transfer a document to a Schengen subgroup

The Presidency informed the Centre of the Schengen Group's request to have access to 6072/4/96 CIREFI 11 REV 4.

The Centre agreed to the transfer of the said document.

c. 5th International Conference of Frontier Police

The Presidency informed the Centre that the Hungarian Chairmanship of the Conference wished to discuss the following subjects with CIREFI:

- Developing information exchanges
- Long-term prospects for ensuring the compatibility of the data collected by CIREFI and the Conference

A discussion was held on the subject. The German and Austrian delegations expressed support for an alignment on the issue of harmonizing definitions. A decision on the subject would be taken at the next meeting.

d. Immigrants from Sri Lanka

In connection with the above, the Netherlands and German delegations provided information regarding two flights by Turkmenistan Air Lines.

e. Immigration from Albania

In reply to a question from the German delegation, the Italian and Greek delegations provided information on this topic in relation to the recent disturbances in Albania.