EUROPEAN UNION
THE COUNCIL

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OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of : False Documents Working Party and Drafting Committee

on : Thursday 20 March 1997

1. **Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda in telex No 1052 of 12 March 1997 was adopted with the addition of two items under Other business.

2. **Exchange of information**

The Austrian delegation submitted to the Working Party a list of specimens of identity and travel documents from the other Member States in Austria's archives.

The Portuguese delegation also submitted a similar document.

At the request of the Belgian delegation, a list containing such specimens in the possession of the 15 Member States will be drawn up by the General Secretariat when all delegations have sent their lists of specimens in their possession.

The Spanish delegation informed the Working Party of the theft of 250 Schengen Visa labels from the Spanish Consulate in Istanbul.

3. Harmonized system of image archiving and transmission

The Presidency reported to the Working Party on the discussion which took place in the meeting of the study group on 7 March 1997, the aim of which was to draw up a summary of the needs and requirements of users, and on the guidelines which emerged from the meeting.

As a result of the meeting, a document setting out these needs and requirements is being prepared by the General Secretariat. To continue the "technical study", the Presidency put three options to the Working Party:

(a) engage an external firm;
(b) carry out a mission by delegations' representatives to study the existing systems;
(c) have the study group continue its discussions.

After a discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of each option, the Working Party decided that the Austrian and Portuguese delegations, accompanied by representatives of the General Secretariat and the Commission would carry out a mission to those Member States which already had a system, in order to prepare a technical study focusing on the needs and requirements of the European system, and to determine to what extent each national system met European requirements.

To implement this mission, a request for a financial contribution would be submitted by the Presidency in the framework of the Sherlock programme.

The Luxembourg delegation expressed doubts on the method to be followed.

4. Handbook of Genuine Documents

The General Secretariat reported to the Working Party on remaining problems with the drawing up of a final version of the Handbook.

First of all, the dates on which the various documents had first been issued had not been supplied in every case. The delegations decided to send this information to the General Secretariat before 15 April 1997.

Secondly, the descriptions of the legal status of documents were not uniform, with substantial differences between the various contributions from delegations. In order to resolve this problem, on a proposal by the General Secretariat, the Working Party decided to use the following descriptions:

(a)	Passport	travel document issued to nationals ... (country)
(b)	Identity card	document establishing identity issued to nationals ... (country)
(c)	Travel document (Convention of 28.7.1951)	this document is issued to persons having refugee status in *(name of country)*
(d)	Travel document (Convention of 28.9.1954)	this document is issued by *(name of country)* pursuant to Article 28 of the Convention of 28.9.1954
(e)	Visa	authorization to enter the territory of ... (country)

5. Results of the meeting on 12 March 1997 of the Management Committee of the Sherlock programme

The Commission representative briefed the Working Party on the following main topics discussed by the Sherlock Committee on 12 March 1997:

- 74,5% financing of the Trainers' Training Seminar in Eindhoven, to take place from 16 to 27 June 1997;
- approval of the 1997 annual programme.

With regard to the organization of the Trainers' Training Seminar for the Associated Countries, the Presidency, together with the Austrian and United Kingdom delegations, would submit a request for funding in the framework of the Sherlock programme.

6. Other business

(a) False Belgian passports used by Sri Lankan nationals

The Belgian delegation requested the Netherlands delegation for samples of the above false passports found in the Netherlands.

(b) Immigrants from Sri Lanka

The Netherlands and German delegations informed the Centre about two flights by Turkmenistan Air Lines in connection with this subject which were entirely filled with persons originating in Sri Lanka.

MEETING OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE

1. **Examination of contributions to the Fraud Bulletin and the Handbook of Genuine Documents**

The Committee examined the contributions submitted.