EUROPEAN UNION
THE COUNCIL

Brussels, 4 July 1997 (09.07)
(OR. f)

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SEMDOC
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LIMITE

ASIM 145
FIN 277

"I"/"A" ITEM NOTE

from : General Secretariat

to : Coreper / Council

Subject: Adoption in the official languages of the Communities of:
- a Joint Action concerning the financing of specific projects in favour of displaced persons who have found temporary protection in the Member States and asylum-seekers
- a Joint Action concerning the financing of specific projects in favour of asylum-seekers and refugees

Coreper reached agreement on these two draft Joint Actions at its meeting on 19 June 1997.

The texts have since been finalized by the Working Party of Legal/Linguistic Experts, and Coreper is therefore requested to recommend that the Council should:

- adopt the draft Joint Actions as contained in 9580/97 ASIM 142 FIN 275 and 9581/97 ASIM 143 FIN 276 respectively;

- enter the attached statements in the minutes of its meeting;

- have the two Joint Actions published in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

ANNEX

Statements for the minutes of the Council meeting at which the two Joint Actions are adopted

1. The Commission hereby gives an undertaking that, in the course of 1998, once it has been able to draw the lessons from the actions begun on an experimental basis in 1997, it will in good time submit initiatives to the Council aimed at developing further any actions in the areas covered by headings B 7-6008 and B 5-803, on the basis of an appropriate legal instrument.

2. The Council and the Commission state that the arrangements laid down in Article 4 of each of the Joint Actions take into account the experimental nature of the specific projects begun in 1997. To minimize costs and speed up the organization of meetings, they agree that the Committee provided for in Article 4(2) and (3) will meet at the level of the Permanent Representations' Brussels-based counsellors responsible for refugee matters. They also agree that any legal instruments aimed at the further development of actions in the areas covered by headings B 7-6008 and B 5-803 will incorporate the decision-making system provided for in the Joint Action of 28 October 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on the European Union, on a programme of incentives and exchanges for legal practitioners (GROTIUS) OJ No L 287, 8.11.1996, p. 3.

3. The Council and the Commission confirm that budget heading B 7-6008 may be used for the funding of projects to assist the voluntary return of third-country nationals holding a permanent residence permit in one of the Member States.

4. Statement by the Danish delegation:
   "The Danish delegation considers that there is no legal basis for the actions envisaged under budget heading B 3-4113 and that a legal basis should be established similar to those which have been established for headings B 5-803 and B 7-6008.

   This statement is to be released to the public."