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CIREFI 10

NOTE

from: The General Secretariat

to: CIREFI

**Subject : Compilation of replies to questionnaire concerning liaison officers of Member States (see Telex No. 5319 of 18 december 1997)**

Delegations will find herewith the replies received from Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom to the questionnaire concerning liaison officers of the Member States.

These replies update the information contained in doc. 13029/1/95 CIREFI 59 REV 1.

Greece and Luxembourg have not as yet replied. (1)

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(1) As at February 1996, Luxembourg had no liaison officers in other States, and Greece had two liaison officers in Cyprus (see above-mentioned document CIREFI 59 REV 1).

## QUESTIONNAIRE

1. How many liaison officers does your country have in other States?

2. What are their duties? Do they relate solely to immigration issues or do they carry out general police duties?

3. In which transit countries or countries of origin of illegal immigration do you think it would be useful to post a liaison officer to carry out immigration duties?

4. Would your authorities accept the possibility that a liaison officer from a State of the Union could, in certain situations, prepare a report at the request of another Member State so that its contents could be analyzed by the CIREFI Working Party in order to learn about illegal immigration trends and, if appropriate, forward its conclusions to Steering Group I.

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(1) How many liaison officers does your country have in other States?

Thirteen in all, recruited from within the "Rijkswacht" (Gendarmerie) and the Judicial Police and seconded mainly to Belgian Embassies abroad. However, the liaison officers in Paris and Wiesbaden are stationed at the central police headquarters, the one in Lyons at Interpol (OIPC) and two out of the three in the Hague at Europol.

The list of these officers is as follows:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Vienna | Austria, Hungary, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Slovakia. Romania and Croatia to come. | 1 | Rijkswacht |
| Bogota | Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Venezuela, Peru, Bolivia, Dominican Republic. Aruba, The Netherlands Antilles and Brazil to come. | 1 | Rijkswacht |
| Madrid | Spain, Portugal, Morocco. | 1 | Rijkswacht |
| The Hague | Netherlands. | 1 | Rijkswacht |
| Moscow | Russian Federation. The other CIS States to come. | 1 | Rijkswacht |
| Paris | France. | 1 | Judicial Police |
| Rome | Italy. Malta, San Marino and Albania to come. | 1 | Judicial Police |
| Washington | United States. Canada and Mexico to come. | 1 | Judicial Police |
| Wiesbaden | Germany. | 1 | Judicial Police |
| Istanbul | Turkey. Bulgaria to come. | 1 | Rijkswacht |
| The Hague | Europol. | 2 | Judicial Police/ Rijkswacht |
| Lyons | Interpol. | 1 | Rijkswacht |

Future plans include stationing officials in Warsaw (judicial territory: Poland and, at a later date, the Baltic States) and Manila (Philippines) or Bangkok (Thailand).

(2) What are their duties? Do they relate solely to immigration issues or do they carry out general police duties?

Their jurisdiction extends to general policing and includes administrative, judicial and aliens police duties, including immigration issues. Above all, they are charged with combating crime in general, drug trafficking in particular, law and order and the policing of external borders. They operate in the interests of all Belgian police departments.

The legal framework for liaison is based on two ministerial circulars: that of 4 October 1993 on the status and work rules of Belgian police department liaison officers abroad and that of 30 September 1993 on the work rules applicable to liaison officers. These circulars are based on the 1988 Vienna Drugtrafficking Convention, the decisions of principle of the TREVI Ministers of 1991 and Article 47 of the Schengen Agreement.

Functional control and control of the relations of Belgian liaison officers abroad are entrusted to the International Police Cooperation Division of the General Police Support Service.

(3) In which transit countries or countries of origin of illegal immigration do you think that it would be useful to post a liaison officer to carry out immigration duties?

To the countries already listed above, plus former Yugoslavia, Nigeria, Ghana, India, Pakistan, The Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire), Algeria and Angola.

(4) Would your authorities accept the possibility that a liaison officer from a State of the Union could, in certain situations, prepare a report at the request of another Member State so that its contents could be analyzed by the CIREFI Working Party in order to learn about illegal immigration trends and, if appropriate, forward its conclusions to Steering Group I?

Yes, provided that the request is submitted via the central authority controlling the liaison officers (International Police Cooperation Division of the General Police Support Service).

DENMARK

Re Question 1:

The National Commissioner of the Danish Police has ten liaison officers stationed in the following countries/agencies:

The Netherlands: 1
Lithuania (The Baltic States): 1
Thailand: 1
Turkey: 1
Germany: 2
Austria: 1
Europol:3.

These Danish liaison officers are part of the Nordic Police and Customs cooperation (PTN), in which all the Nordic countries are participating. All together the Nordic countries have 36 PTN liaison officers stationed in countries abroad.

Furthermore the Danish Immigration Service has 4 liaison officers posted in the following countries:

Kenya: 1
Pakistan: 1
Turkey: 1
Bosnia and Herzegovina: 1.

Re Question 2:

The liaison officers from the National Commissioner of the Danish Police are authorised to perform general police duties, but their primary task is to assist in fighting drug related crimes. At present the National Commissioner of the Danish Police has no liaison officers with authority restricted to immigration matters or pre-boarding checks.

The authority of liaison officers from the Danish Immigration Service is restricted to immigration matters. Their primary task is to assist at the processing at the local representation of applications for residence and work permit, asylum, visa etc. and to ensure the necessary documents are available and genuine. Furthermore these liaison officers gather information in general and work to facilitate the return of persons who are no longer permitted to stay in Denmark.

Re Question 3:

The National Commissioner of the Danish Police has indicated it could be useful to post liaison officers in Istanbul, Minsk and Moscow.

The Danish Immigration Service finds it could be useful to post a liaison officer in Sri Lanka and Norway and Denmark has decided to station a common Nordic liaison officer in Sri Lanka. The officer in question will be posted by Norway, but has not yet been appointed. The officer is expected to be in office soon.

Re Question 4:

The instructions for the liaison officers posted by the National Commissioner of the Danish Police does not generally provide the possibility to add further larger assignments apart from drug related crimes.

The Danish Immigration Service will consider the matter in a positive light if the need should arise, and on the condition that the report can be combined with the Danish national work in the same matter.

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Basically, rather than liaison officers with the usual status, Germany posts documentation advisers from the Federal border guard to carry out the tasks described in the questionnaire.

Re Question 1:

At present (from January until probably March 1998) Germany has documentation advisers posted in the following destinations:

- Lagos
- Nairobi
- Karachi
- Bangkok.

As from 16 February 1998, postings (for three months each) to:

- Ankara
- Istanbul
- Tirana
  and
- New Delhi

are planned.

Over and above that, short-term postings, usually of one or more days, are made at other airports as required.

Re Question 2:

The duties of the documentation advisers officers are as follows:

- advising and supporting airlines (not giving any instructions to airlines, merely recommendations) in carrying out the statutory German immigration checks, in order eventually to put a stop to the entry of aliens with inadequate travel documents at the point of departure from their country of provenance, and

- supporting Embassy staff in recognizing false and falsified documents among those presented, in order to prevent the unjustified issue of visas, and possibly to acquire information about illegal immigration networks for forwarding to the responsible authorities abroad and in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Re Question 3:

Documentation advisers should also be posted to Moscow and Sofia.

Re Question 4:

Documentation advisers from the Federal border guard are posted abroad for about three months. They are seconded to the Foreign Ministry. On the basis of their short period of service in a particular country, documentation advisers are not able to gain a comprehensive overview of the situation regarding illegal migration in that country. Their reports cannot therefore describe the overall situation but can only deal with a limited aspect of the problem. However, it is possible for specific answers to be provided to individual questions.

1 - Depuis 1992, la France a initié un processus d'échange d'officiers de liaison avec les Etats membres. Elle compte actuellement 6 officiers de liaison spécialisés en matière d'immigration en poste dans les pays suivants : Allemagne (2), Espagne, Italie. Pays-Bas et Royaume-Uni.
Cinq d'entre eux sont détachés dans les services centraux chargés de la lutte contre l'immigration clandestine de ces pays, le sixième en fonction à l'aéroport de Francfort sur le Main en Allemagne, en qualité d'officier de liaison aux frontières extérieures.

2 - La mission des fonctionnaires de liaison est de contribuer à la promotion et à l'intensification de la coopération dans le domaine de l'immigration irrégulière, entre les services concernés des Etats membres et la DICCILEC.

Leurs activités consistent à :
- centraliser et diffuser au profit des deux Etats concernés (pays d'accueil et France) toutes les informations en matière de flux migratoires, de réglementation transfrontière et de travail clandestin, dans le respect des législations nationales ,
- contribuer à l'harmonisation des instructions données aux services chargés des contrôles,
- dans le respect de la législation du pays d'accueil, jouer un rôle d'observateur et de conseiller, lors d'enquêtes judiciaires relatives à la lutte contre l'immigration irrégulière,
- jouer un rôle dans la promotion d'une formation et d'un recyclage uniformes des personnels concernés par la lutte contre l'immigration irrégulière.
-faciliter les réadmissions d'étrangers entre Etats membres et les transits d'éloignement.

3) Turquie, PECOS, Sri-lanka, Pakistan.....

4) non

SPAIN

1. *How many liaison officers does your country have in other States?*

Figures for Spain's liaison officers in other States are as follows:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Germany | 2 | Belgium | 1 | France | 5 | Italy | 2 | Netherlands | 2 |
| Portugal | 2 | United Kingdom | 2 | Andorra | 1 | Turkey | 1 | Russia | 1 |
| Morocco | 3 | Algeria | 1 | Tunisia | 1 | Egypt | 1 | | |
| Uruguay | 1 | Mexico | 1 | Venezuela | 1 | Colombia | 1 | United States | 1 |
| Hungary | 1 | | | | | | | | |

2. *What are their duties? Do they relate solely to immigration issues or do they carry out general police duties?*

All liaison officers carry out general duties. In France alone, one of them is assigned exclusively to immigration duties.

3. *In which transit country or countries of origin of illegal immigration do you think it would be useful to post a liaison officer to carry out immigration duties?*

No country has been envisaged to date.

4. *Would your authorities accept the possibility that a liaison officer from a State of the Union could, in certain situations, prepare a report at the request of another Member State so that its contents could be analyzed by the CIREFI Working Party in order to learn about illegal immigration trends and, if appropriate, forward its conclusions to Steering Group I?*

The Spanish authorities have no objections to liaison officers carrying out their duties in accordance with the provisions of bilateral or multilateral agreements on the exchange of such officers.

1. How many liaison officers does your country have in other States?

- None.

2. What are their duties? Do they relate solely to immigration issues or do they carry out general police duties?

- N/A

3. In which transit countries or countries of origin of illegal immigration do you think it would be useful to post a liaison officer to carry out immigration duties.

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4. Would your authorities accept the possibility that a liaison officer from a State of the Union could, in certain situations, prepare a report at the request of another Member State so that its contents could be analysed by the CIREFI Working Party in order to learn about illegal immigration trends and, if appropriate, forward its conclusions to Steering Group 1.

- Yes, (perhaps the Migration Group rather than Steering Group 1).

ITALY

1. *How many liaison officers does your country have in other States?*

   Italy currently has 33 liaison officers carrying out their duties in other States and in international organizations such as Interpol - Europol - EU.

2. *What are their duties? Do they relate solely to immigration issues or do they carry out general police duties?*

   The majority of liaison officers and of antidrugs experts posted to representations abroad (21) carry out duties exclusively in the area of drugs. Some carry out activities in international organisations such as Interpol (Lyons - Madrid - Wiesbaden) or Europol (The Hague); others deal with organised crime and one with anti-terrorism. Only one liaison officer, posted to DICCILEC in Paris, is currently dealing with illegal immigration exclusively; the liaison officer posted to the Bunderskriminalamt in Wiesbaden also deals with problems linked to illegal immigration.

3. *In which transit countries or countries of origin of illegal immigration do you think it would be useful to post a liaison officer to carry out immigration duties?*

   Albania - Romania - Greece - Turkey - Morocco - (Malta).

4. *Would your authorities accept the possibility that a liaison officer from a State of the Union could, in certain situations, prepare a report at the request of another Member State so that its contents could be analyzed by the CIREFI Working Party in order to learn about illegal immigration trends and, if appropriate, forward its conclusions to Steering Group I.*

   This approach is in line with the Joint Action adopted by the Council under the Italian Presidency on the basis of article K.3 of the EU Treaty, contained in doc. 7520/96 ENFOPOL 94.

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THE NETHERLANDS

1. At the present time, the Netherlands has liaison officers stationed in six countries. They are:

- Ghana (Accra);
- Iran (Teheran);
- Lebanon (Beirut);
- Ukraine (Kiev);
- Sri Lanka (Colombo);
- Turkey (Istanbul and Ankara).

2. Liaison officers have the following duties:
- gathering information on checks on departing passengers at airports;
- maintaining contacts with colleagues from other countries;
- maintaining contacts at airports;
- providing training for immigration authorities and airline staff in the recognition of false or falsified documents;
- collecting and analyzing information of significance for policymaking in the context of Netherlands immigration law, and for the drawing up of official reports;
- collecting and analyzing information of significance for policymaking in the area of the validation and verification of documents;
- monitoring returned asylum-seekers;
- taking preparatory steps in expulsion operations;
- investigating the authenticity of documents;
- discovering and where possible combatting traffic in human beings;
- exchanging expertise with Embassy staff in the field of illegal immigration in the context of applications for authorization for temporary residence and visa applications.

3. It would be desirable to post liaison officers in the following countries:
- Bulgaria (Sofia);
- Pakistan (Islamabad/Karachi);
- Thailand (Bangkok);
- South Africa (Pretoria).

4. Given the international nature of the problem at issue, this possibility is not only desirable but is regarded as necessary in the context of practical/operational cooperation in charting and combatting illegal immigration trends.

AUSTRIA

Question 1:

At the moment Austria has migration attachés posted in Warsaw and Budapest. In addition, officials are deployed to effect pre-boarding checks on flights from critical destinations.

Question 2:

The migration attachés operate in an advisory capacity in the countries in which they are posted while the officials accompanying flights are essentially used to make pre-boarding checks and as a result carry out what amount to police duties.

Question 3:

Iraq, Turkey, Romania and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Question 4:

Austria would welcome such an initiative. Burden-sharing of this kind could undoubtedly help improve the availability of information and eventually lead to increased efficiency for all Member States.

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## PORTUGAL

1. Portugal has liaison officers in Guinea-Bissau and Angola.

2. The liaison officer is accredited as a member of the diplomatic staff, his responsibility being to assist the Embassy departments where he is assigned the task of examination of visa applications, in particular by giving an opinion, and cooperating in consular prevention of immigration fraud.

3. Macao, Moscow, Dakar, Lagos, Abidjan and Kinshasa.

4. Portugal has no objection provided that the request is channelled through the liaison officer's department.

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1. Not one such person with duties confined exclusively to immigration matters. There are about 7 policemen serving as liaison officers abroad.

2. Their duties include the prevention of illegal immigration.

3. Finland considers that at present the most important places would be Moscow, St Petersburg, Nairobi, Kiev and Istanbul.

4. Finland supports the proposal and at the same time proposes that consideration be given to posting the European Union's own liaison officers, who serve all the Member States, to the most important locations from the point of view of illegal immigration.

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**SWEDEN**

1. Sweden has at present 10 police liaison officers stationed abroad. They are stationed in Athens, Bangkok (2), Budapest, The Hague, Moscow, Riga, St Petersburg, Tallinn and Warsaw.

2. The police liaison officers have general police duties, which means that they cover a broad range of police matters, including questions concerning aliens. Earlier postings in Damascus and Nairobi specially directed against illegal immigration and facilitation have been withdrawn since the end of 1997 for economy reasons.

3. We consider that today, to counter illegal immigration and facilitation, officers should be posted to Istanbul, Belgrade, Budapest, Kiev, Amman, Bangkok and Colombo. From the Swedish point of view posting in the following places of transit within the EU would also be worthwhile: Vienna, Frankfurt, Amsterdam and Athens.

4. Sweden has nothing against our liaison officers being used at the request of another Member State, in special situations, for preparing reports which may be analyzed by Cirefi. The question cannot, however, be answered quite so simply since our Swedish police liaison officers form part of a joint Nordic liaison officer network – PTN (Poli-Tull-Norden) (Police – Customs – Nordic countries); such a decision would therefore probably be subject to agreement by all the Nordic countries, including Norway and Iceland.

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Q1 The United Kingdom has 5 ALOs based in India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Ghana and Kenya.

Q2 They are solely involved in immigration issues and their main task is to reduce as far as possible the number of inadequately documented passengers travelling to the United Kingdom. They do this by establishing links with airlines, immigration and police authorities and other relevant bodies; delivering training in document and visa requirements, passenger profiling and forgery awareness; offering on the spot advice to airlines on travel documents; gathering and disseminating intelligence on trends in inadequately documented passengers and racketeering.

Q3 This is very difficult to answer and we are tempted to say all of them but if we are realistic then likely places of interest would include the Far East, the Gulf States, southern Africa, Turkey and eastern Europe. We have no current plans to place more ALOs in specific locations.

Q4 The United Kingdom certainly agrees that liaison officers have a useful role to play in making information available to EU fora about the situation in the country in which they are based. Any request, in the context of the work of CIREFI, to draw upon the local expertise of the UK's ALOs would be considered constructively. However, it should be emphasised that, given their existing duties, the time available to the UK's ALOs for such additional work would be limited.