1. Agreement has been reached on the text of the above mentioned draft Council conclusions which is annexed to the present note.

2. It is suggested therefore, that these conclusions are adopted by the Council (JAI) as an "A" item at its session on 30 November/1 December 1994 and that they are thereafter transmitted to the European Parliament.
Draft Council Conclusions on the organization and development of the Centre for Information, Discussion and Exchange on the crossing of frontiers and immigration (CIREFI)

The Council recalls the decision taken by the Ministers responsible for immigration on 30 November/1 December 1992 to establish a Centre for Information, Discussion and Exchange on the crossing of frontiers and immigration (CIREFI) and notes that in the 1994 priority work-programme in the field of justice and home affairs which it adopted in November 1993, CIREFI was requested to continue its work.

The Council emphasizes the urgent problems arising from illegal immigration and unlawful residence by nationals of third countries in the Member States and considers that only concerted action by the Member States on a basis of solidarity can stem of reduce the flow of unauthorized immigration.

The Council underlines the need for all Member States of the Union to combat criminal illegal immigration networks and make it impossible for them to arrange or assist large scale illegal immigration flows.

Given that further progress in cooperation between Member States requires improved exchanges of information and uniform situation assessments in order to improve coordination on a Union wide basis in the areas of illegal immigration and expulsion, the Council considers and decides that CIREFI should be, as a further step, progressively developed in the following way:
1. - CIREFI will assist the Member States in effectively studying legal immigration, preventing illegal immigration and unlawful residence, in effectively combating immigration crime, in better detecting forged documents and in improving expulsion practice.

2. - CIREFI shall meet on a regular basis and shall consist of Expert Representatives of the Member States (Standing Conference) with logistical back-up from the General Secretariat of the Council.

3. - Without prejudice to the other tasks included in the Ministerial decision of 30 November/1st December 1992, the specific tasks of CIREFI shall be to:

3.1. = collate, using standard forms, statistical information concerning
   a. legal immigration
   b. illegal immigration and unlawful residence
   c. facilitating of illegal immigration
   d. use of false or falsified travel documents
   e. measures taken by competent authorities, and draw up regular and occasional situation reports on this basis commenting on trends, developments and changes;

3.2. = analyses the information compiled, draw conclusions and, when appropriate, give advice;
The logistical back-up at the General Secretariat of the Council will provide the CIREFI with the necessary administrative and organizational assistance and will contribute to prior and subsequent processing of agendas for CIREFI's meetings. The General Secretariat of the Council will, within its budgetary constraints, ensure provision of the staff and equipment required for the CIREFI to perform its tasks.

5. The Council also notes that during the time between meetings of CIREFI as a standing conference as defined in 2. above, the national central units of the Member States concerned will exchange information directly at a multilateral or bilateral level in cases requiring immediate action. Information will be exchanged as far as possible using standard forms or as events dictate using an agreed layout.

Costs incurred by national central units, including the cost of communicating with other national central units, will be borne by the Member State concerned.

6. The Council considers that CIREFI may begin to carry out its work as defined in these conclusions from 1 January 1995.