EUROPEAN UNION
THE COUNCIL

Brussels, 30 May 1995 (29.01)

NOTE

from: Presidency
to: External Frontiers Working Party

No. prev. doc.: 4617/95 ASIM 21
4618/95 ASIM 22
5981/95 ASIM 97

Subject: Draft joint action on pre-frontier assistance and training assignments

At its meeting on 11 and 12 May 1995, the External Frontiers Working Party examined the above text.

Delegations will find below a revised version.

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Article K.3(2)(b) thereof,

Having regard to the initiatives taken by the French Republic on 1 February 1995,

Having regard to the Decision of 30 November and 1 December 1992 of the Ministers responsible for immigration on the establishment of a Centre for Information, Discussion and Exchange on the Crossing of Borders and Immigration (CIREFI),

Whereas control of migratory flows may be improved by stepping up the checks carried out on embarkation onto flights to Member States of the Union, making them a useful instrument for the purposes of combating unauthorized immigration by nationals of third countries, which, pursuant to Article K.1(3)(c) of the Treaty, is a matter of common interest;
Whereas the posting to airports of departure of Member States' officers who are specialized in such checks, to assist the officers who carry out checks on departure locally for the local authorities or for the airlines, is a means of helping to improve those checks;

Whereas organizing training assignments aimed at airline staff is also a way of helping to improve those checks;

Whereas the matters could be dealt with more effectively by joint action and whereas the terms of such action should therefore be established;

Whereas the Centre for Information, Discussion and Exchange on the Crossing of Borders and Immigration (CIREFI) is the appropriate framework for the organization of such measures, (1)

HAS ADOPTED THIS JOINT ACTION

Article 1

Assistance assignments

1. The joint organization of assistance assignments in third-country airports shall be carried out within the framework of the Centre for Information, Discussion and Exchange on the Crossing of Borders and Immigration (CIREFI).

2. Assistance assignments shall be carried out in agreement with the competent authorities of the third country concerned.

3. Such assignments shall have as their objective the provision of assistance to officers locally responsible for checks on departure either on behalf of the local authorities or on behalf of the airlines.

(1) D/NL/FIN/UK: reservations on CIREFI's role in this text. The Commission proposed omitting the reference to CIREFI and referring only to the Council, which alone had legal powers.
4. Assistance assignments shall be temporary or permanent. For this purpose:

– CIREFI shall draw up a list of airports in which joint assignments are to be carried out on a temporary basis;

– Acting on a proposal from CIREFI, Council Steering Group I shall draw up a list of airports in which joint assignments are to be carried out on a permanent basis.

**Article 2**

**Training assignments**

1. The joint organization of training assignments for airline staff shall be carried out within the framework of CIREFI.

2. The general purpose of joint training assignments for airline staff shall be to describe the principles of the rules on entry into the territory of the Member States as well as methods of checking the validity of the required travel documents and visas.

3. For this purpose CIREFI shall draw up:

   – a list of airports at which joint training assignments are to be carried out;

   – a six-monthly programme of joint training assignments;

   – a collection of information on Member States' regulations of use to airlines;

   – a collection of travel documents and visas of use to airlines.

**Article 3**

**Common provisions**

1. Joint assistance or training assignments shall be carried out by specialist officers designated by the Member States and forming part of a joint assignment.
2. Member States shall inform CIREFI if they wish to be associated with action under the programme and to send specialist officers to take part in the joint assignment.

3. The joint assignment shall be headed by a specialist officer from the immigration control service of the Member State most affected by the airport in question.

4. Each Member State shall bear the costs incurred by the officers it has appointed.

5. The embassies of the Member States present in the country in which the assignment is carried out shall be informed by the President of CIREFI.

6. The Member States shall inform CIREFI of any assistance or training measures which they conduct outside CIREFI.

7. Each year CIREFI shall send the Council a report on the activities carried out under this joint action.

8. Subject to the necessary adjustments, the assignments provided for by this joint action may also be carried out in sea ports.

9. CIREFI shall take all necessary steps to implement this joint action.

**Article 4**

This joint action shall enter into force on ........../the date of its adoption/publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities.