NOTE to: Council
Subject: High-level Working Group on Asylum and Migration
   – Adoption of the report to the Nice European Council

1. At its meeting held in Tampere on 15 and 16 October 1999, the Council welcomed the report of the High-level Working Group on Asylum and Migration (HLWG) set up by the Council, and agreed on the continuation of its mandate and on the drawing up of further Action Plans. It considered that the first Action Plans drawn up by the HLWG and approved by the Council were a useful contribution, and invited the Council and the Commission to report back on their implementation to the European Council in December 2000.

2. Since then the HLWG has set out to implement the Action Plans. The innovatory exercise conducted by the HLWG must be seen as a long-term task. The balanced implementation of the Action Plans, combining aspects falling within different categories (foreign policy, development, asylum and migration), represents a challenge calling for increased cooperation between all the players involved and the mobilisation of human and financial resources at Community and national level. Particular attention must be paid to the coherence of measures carried out in the areas of development on the one hand and migration on the other.
3. The Permanent Representatives Committee is asked to recommend that the Council:

- adopt the report on the work of the High-level Working Group on Asylum and Migration, as contained in 13687/00 JAI 145 AG 71, and send it to the Nice European Council;

- instruct the High-level Working Group to

  = expedite the implementation of those Action Plans already defined and reaffirm the importance of partnership with countries of origin,

  = implement the remedial measures identified by the High-level Working Group for overcoming the obstacles to implementation of these Plans, set out in Part IV of the report in 13687/00 JAI 145 AG 71,

  = contribute, in the areas covered by the Action Plans, to the coherence of the measures taken by the Community and the EU with regard to development and migration,

  = consider drawing up new Action Plans in the light of experience acquired during the implementation of the Action Plans already defined and on the basis of operational selection criteria,

  = review its activities again at the end of 2001 at the earliest.