



*Date: 26 August 2002*

Dear Colleague,

As you are aware the Informal Justice and Home Affairs Council Meeting will take place in Copenhagen 12 – 14 September 2002.

Please find enclosed three discussion papers regarding asylum and immigration. Discussion papers regarding the other issues for discussion at the meeting is forwarded separately by the Danish Minister of Justice.

Questions related to asylum and immigration has since the entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty had a high priority at the European agenda. At the meeting of the European Council in Seville in June 2002 the importance of this area was underlined once again. In Seville it was stated that the joint management of migration flows must strike a fair balance between an integration policy for lawfully resident immigrants and an asylum policy complying with international conventions and a resolute action to combat illegal immigration.

In order to ensure this balanced approach the items for our informal discussion cover three very different but at the same time linked aspects regarding asylum and immigration. A common refugee definition, integration of third country nationals lawfully residing in a Member State and a return policy regarding persons who are not or no longer allowed to stay in a Member State.

I hope that the three enclosed discussion papers will contribute to an open and real discussion at the meeting and for your information it is our intention to discuss these items on the first day of the Informal Meeting.

I look forward to seeing you in Copenhagen.

Yours sincerely,

Bertel Haarder

