

**Brussels, 10 October 2002**

**12625/02**

**LIMITE**

**MIGR 91  
RELEX 186**

**NOTE**

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from : the Commission

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to : Council

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Subject : Readmission agreements

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Delegations will find attached a note from the Commission concerning readmission agreements.

## COMMUNITY READMISSION AGREEMENTS

### STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS

#### I. OVERVIEW

Based on the Community's new powers under Article 63 (3) (b) TEC, the Council so far authorised the Commission to negotiate Community readmission agreements with 7 third countries/entities: **Morocco, Sri Lanka, Russia, Pakistan** (September 2000), **Hong Kong, Macao** (May 2001) and **Ukraine** (June 2002).

In addition, the Commission will submit in the course of October 2002 draft negotiating mandates for agreements with **Albania, Algeria, China** and **Turkey** which were identified as further readmission priorities by the JHA Council in April this year.

#### II. STATE OF NEGOTIATIONS

##### **Morocco**

Conclusion of a readmission agreement one of the measures recommended in the 1999 HLWG Action Plan on Morocco ; negotiating mandate received in September 2000; draft text officially transmitted to the Moroccan side in May 2001 ; no formal response but informal (preparatory) meetings held in Rabat in January, March and May 2002 ; Morocco did not yet agree to launch formal negotiations.

##### **Pakistan**

Conclusion of a readmission agreement one of the measures recommended in the 1999 HLWG Action Plan on Afghanistan; negotiating mandate received in September 2000 ; draft text officially transmitted to the Pakistani side in April 2001 ; no formal response yet ; there have been occasional contacts at diplomatic level but no informal (preparatory) meetings were held nor formal negotiations launched.

## □□ **Russia**

Conclusion of a readmission agreement one of the proposals made in the 1999 Common Strategy on Russia ; negotiating mandate received in September 2000 ; draft text officially transmitted to the Russian side in April 2001 ; no formal response yet ; there have been repeated contacts at diplomatic level but no informal (preparatory) meetings were held nor formal negotiations launched.

## □□ **Sri Lanka**

Conclusion of a readmission agreement one of the measures recommended in the 1999 HLWG Action Plan on Sri Lanka ; negotiating mandate received in September 2000 ; draft text officially transmitted to the Sri Lankan side in April 2001 ; following two formal rounds of negotiations, which took place in Brussels in July 2001 and in Colombo in March 2002, a final text was initialled in Brussels in May 2002 ; the Commission is currently about to initiate the two-step ratification procedure.

## □□ **Hong Kong**

Conclusion of a readmission agreements part of the political agreement reached in December 2000 when JHA Ministers decided to exempt Hong Kong SAR passport holders from the visa requirement ; negotiating mandate received in April 2001; draft text officially transmitted to the Hong Kong side in June 2001 ; following an informal meeting of technical experts in Brussels in September 2001, one round of formal negotiations took place in Hong Kong in October 2001 ; the Agreement was initialled in Brussels in November 2001, and in April 2002 the Commission launched the two-step ratification procedure (see Council doc. 8518/02) ; Council decision adopted on 23 September 2002 to authorise the Commission to sign the agreement (now likely to become the first ever Community readmission agreement).

□□ **Macao**

Conclusion of a readmission agreements part of the political agreement reached in December 2000 when JHA Ministers decided to exempt Macao SAR passport holders from the visa requirement ; negotiating mandate received in April 2001; draft text officially transmitted to the Macanese side in July 2001 ; following one round of formal negotiations in Macao in October 2001 and the exchange of several written notes, the agreement is now likely to be initialled on 18 October 2002 (in the margins of the annual EC-Macao Joint Committee meeting).

□□ **Ukraine**

Conclusion of a readmission agreement one of the proposals made in the 1999 Common Strategy on Ukraine ; negotiating mandate received in June 2002 ; draft text officially transmitted to the Ukrainian side in August 2002 ; following an informal preparatory meeting in Brussels in March 2002, the first round of formal negotiations is now expected to take place in Kiev beginning November.

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