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**NOTE**

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Subject : Amended proposal for a Council Directive on minimum standards on procedures  
in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status  
- Minimum common list of safe countries of origin

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Delegations will find attached the reply from the **United Kingdom** delegation concerning Ghana and Senegal.

## Assessment template

To be completed by Member States in respect of each of the 10 countries under consideration and returned to the Council Secretariat by 8 June 2004

Name of Member State	UK
Name of country for designation	Ghana

<b>QUESTIONS</b>	<b>YES/NO</b>	<b>BASIS FOR RESPONSE</b>	<b>Details of supporting information sources other than those at Annex B. Please indicate if these are publicly available</b>
1. Does the country have a democratic system in place?	Yes		Freedom House
2. Is there a situation of internal or international armed conflict in the country?	Yes	Some conflict in the North of the country.	Freedom House Amnesty International

3. Is there generally and consistently no persecution as defined in Article 9 of the Qualification Directive in the country?	Yes		Amnesty International 2004 report makes no mention of any abuses in these areas.
4. Is there generally and consistently no torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in the country?	Yes		Amnesty International 2004 report makes no mention of any abuses in these areas.
5. Where there is a situation of internal or international armed conflict in the country is there generally and consistently no threat by reason of indiscriminate violence in the country?	Yes		Amnesty International 2004 report makes no mention of any abuses in these areas.

6. Is the extent to which protection is provided against persecution or mistreatment by means of (a) – (d) below sufficient to show that there is generally and consistently no persecution or mistreatment in the country?				
(a)	the relevant laws and regulations of the country and the manner in which they are applied	Yes		Amnesty International 2004 report makes no mention of any difficulties in these areas.
(b)	observance of the rights and freedoms laid down in the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and/or the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights and/or the Convention against Torture, in particular the rights from which derogation cannot be made under Article 15(2) of the said European Convention	Yes		Amnesty International 2004 report makes no mention of any difficulties in these areas.

(c)	respect of the non-refoulement principle according to the Geneva Convention	Yes		Amnesty International 2004 report makes no mention of any abuses in these areas.
(d)	provision for a system of effective remedies against violations of these rights and freedoms	Yes		Amnesty International 2004 report makes no mention of any difficulties in these areas.

<b>OVERALL ASSESSMENT</b>		
1. Do you consider that the information sources listed at Annex B are sufficient for the purpose of conducting the in-depth assessment referred to by the JHA Council with regard to this country?	<b>YES/NO</b>	<b>Insert basis for response</b>
	Yes	But this could be supplemented by information from Freedom House ( <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org">www.freedomhouse.org</a> ) and the Amnesty International 2004 Report.
2. If you answered no to Q 1 please specify: in which areas you consider the information sources to be insufficient; and any other sources of information available to you which would assist discussions and which you are in a position to share with other Member States (Provide website address or other details).		
3. Is the country suitable for inclusion on the minimum common list?	<b>YES/NO</b>	<b>Insert basis for response</b>
	Yes	The information provided shows that on a general and consistent basis Ghana is a safe country of origin. On a more general level, Ghana has been praised for its “exceptionally good governance” by Kofi Annan’s special advisor Jeffrey Sachs (Economist 20 May 2004).

## Assessment template

To be completed by Member States in respect of each of the 10 countries under consideration and returned to the Council Secretariat by 8 June 2004

Name of Member State	UK
Name of country for designation	Senegal

<b>QUESTIONS</b>	<b>YES/NO</b>	<b>BASIS FOR RESPONSE</b>	<b>Details of supporting information sources other than those at Annex B. Please indicate if these are publicly available</b>
1. Does the country have a democratic system in place?	Yes		Freedom House report
2. Is there a situation of internal or international armed conflict in the country?	Yes	There is a separatist conflict in Casamance.	Freedom House report, Amnesty International 2004 report

3. Is there generally and consistently no persecution as defined in Article 9 of the Qualification Directive in the country?	Yes	While this may occur in limited circumstances it is not on a general and consistent basis.	
4. Is there generally and consistently no torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in the country?	Yes	We do not believe this occurs on a general and consistent basis, but some abuses may be carried out in the Casamance area by State and Non-state agents.	Amnesty International 2004 report
5. Where there is a situation of internal or international armed conflict in the country is there generally and consistently no threat by reason of indiscriminate violence in the country?	Yes	While there may be some threat of indiscriminate violence we believe that as this is geographically limited it does not constitute a threat on a general and consistent basis.	Freedom House



6. Is the extent to which protection is provided against persecution or mistreatment by means of (a) – (d) below sufficient to show that there is generally and consistently no persecution or mistreatment in the country?				
(a)	the relevant laws and regulations of the country and the manner in which they are applied	Yes	Offers adequate guarantees	Freedom House
(b)	observance of the rights and freedoms laid down in the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and/or the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights and/or the Convention against Torture, in particular the rights from which derogation cannot be made under Article 15(2) of the said European Convention	Yes	Offers adequate guarantees	Freedom House

(c)	respect of the non-refoulement principle according to the Geneva Convention	Yes	Senegal's international obligations prevent it from refouling applicants to States where they face persecution. Amnesty International, however, does draw attention to a case in which a Mauritian military officer was extradited to Mauritania.	Amnesty International 2004 report
(d)	provision for a system of effective remedies against violations of these rights and freedoms	Yes	Amnesty International draws attention to some occasions where this has not proved the case, but these would seem to be isolated incidents.	Amnesty International 2004 report

<b>OVERALL ASSESSMENT</b>		
	<b>YES/NO</b>	<b>Insert basis for response</b>
1. Do you consider that the information sources listed at Annex B are sufficient for the purpose of conducting the in-depth assessment referred to by the JHA Council with regard to this country?	Yes	Along with the reports of Freedom House ( <a href="http://www.freedomhouse.org">www.freedomhouse.org</a> ) and Amnesty International (updated report of 2004) the country information provided would appear to be adequate.
2. If you answered no to Q 1 please specify: in which areas you consider the information sources to be insufficient; and any other sources of information available to you which would assist discussions and which you are in a position to share with other Member States (Provide website address or other details).		

3. Is the country suitable for inclusion on the minimum common list?	YES/NO	Insert basis for response
	Yes	Senegal is a generally safe country, but due to the conflict in the Casamance region there will almost certainly be some applicants who have a valid claim to asylum. Notwithstanding this the country can still be designated on the common list, since such applicants would still be able to access individual consideration of their case in the event that they themselves are in danger of persecution. On a more general level, Senegal has been praised for its “exceptionally good governance” by Kofi Annan’s special advisor Jeffrey Sachs (Economist 20 May 2004).