



**COUNCIL OF
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NOTE

from : Presidency
to : CIREFI

Subject : CIREFI list of other fora dealing with illegal immigration

Introductory note

Several fora for international cooperation with representatives from various States and organisations deal with illegal immigration and illegal immigrant smuggling. Regional viewpoints, for example, may in such cases affect how matters are processed, but basically this work has the same objective everywhere, which is to combat illegal immigration and human trafficking. Often these groups also discuss matters relating to the fight against organised crime, and therefore this cooperation encompasses the work of the border control, police and immigration authorities. From CIREFI's point of view, it is important to receive information on the work of these international fora and to know the key issues appearing on their meeting agendas which are of importance in terms of combating illegal immigration. When drawing up CIREFI reports, for example, it is important that we have a comprehensive picture of current activities. The persons who participate in CIREFI meetings often also attend the meetings in these other fora. This does not, however, obviate the need to provide information on the events at CIREFI meetings as well. On the contrary, this reporting makes it possible to note, within the structures of the Union, the measures taken in other fora, and if necessary to open common discussions on these measures.

Important fora for international cooperation

Several groups with participants from different States and international organisations discuss immigration matters. It is obvious that only part of this information should be communicated at CIREFI meetings. An agreement has already been made on the exchange of information relating to IGC (Intergovernmental Consultations on Asylum, Refugee and Migration Policies in Europe, North America and Australia), Budapest Group, ICMPD (International Centre for Migration Policy Development), IBPC (International Border Police Conference), Cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region (TFOC/the Task Force on Organised Crime, BSRBCC/ the Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation) and IOM (International Organisation on Migration). The list has never been comprehensive, and neither will it be possible to compile a comprehensive list in future. Reports can be issued for example on certain regional meetings and arrangements, if necessary, in a manner agreed with the Presidency. On the basis of the answers the Presidency has received from the Member States (questionnaire CM 2710/06), the following should also be added to the list: Interpol meetings relating to illegal immigration, IFC (Immigration Fraud Conference), CAWG (Control Authority Working Group) which is part of IATA.

Presenting reports at CIREFI meetings

It is important that the information received in international fora is available at the next CIREFI meeting. Discussion of matters relating to the fight against illegal immigration and human smuggling in other fora should be taken as a standing item on the meeting agendas. In these fora, the country which holds the Presidency or is hosting the meeting and which is also a member of CIREFI could, in the first place, tell the other participants about the matter. In addition, account would be taken of any information recently sent to the Presidency on a party's willingness to act as a rapporteur (questionnaire CM 2710/06). On the basis of such information, it can be stated that Belgium is willing to continue as a rapporteur for IGC (ACE Working Group) and Finland will provide information on the activities of the Baltic Sea Region cooperation bodies. Even for these fora, reporting tasks should in the first place be carried out by the CIREFI member holding the Presidency of the forum concerned, whenever such a situation prevails. The Presidency could also inquire separately if someone is willing to report on the meetings he or she participates in. In the last resort, the representative of the Presidency will submit a report to the meeting.

Europol will report on its activities linked to organised crime in the field of facilitated illegal immigration and on the annual strategic meeting. Frontex representatives will regularly report on their activities linked to the combating of illegal immigration.

The Presidency, together with the Council Secretariat, will find out at the beginning of its term the dates of the meetings to be held during the period of the Presidency and, at the first CIREFI meeting, will tell the participants how reporting for each meeting will be arranged (who will submit the report and at which CIREFI meeting the report will be submitted).
