



**COUNCIL OF
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LIMITE

**CIREFI 36
COMIX 738**

NOTE

from : Presidency
to : CIREFI

Subject : CIREFI list of other fora dealing with illegal immigration

Introductory note

Several foras for international cooperation with representatives from various States and organisations deal with illegal immigration and illegal immigrant smuggling. Regional viewpoints, for example, can in these cases affect the processing of matters, but basically this work has the same objective everywhere, which is to combat illegal immigration and human trafficking. Often these groups also discuss matters related 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 what key issues appear 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 attend the meetings in these other fora as well. It 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, 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 informed at CIREFI meetings. An agreement has already been made on the exchange of information related 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 it is impossible to make a comprehensive list in the future, either. 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 still be added to the list: Interpol meetings related to illegal immigration, IFC (International 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. Discussing matters related to the fight against illegal immigration and human smuggling in other fora should be taken as a standing item on the meeting agendas. In this fora, the country holding the Presidency or being the host and also being 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 inform of 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 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 about the annual strategic meeting on illegal immigration and Frontex representatives will regularly report on their activities linked to the combating of illegal immigration.

The Presidency shall at the beginning of each Presidency period together with the Secretariat of the Council find out the dates of the meetings held during the Presidency period, and at the first CIREFI meeting 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).
