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on 29 October 1999**

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1. **Adoption of the Agenda**
doc. 12167/99 OJ/CONS 60 JAI 93

The Council adopted the above-mentioned agenda.

2. **Approval of the list of “A” Items**
doc. 12168/99 PTS A 51

The Council approved the “A” items listed in doc. 12168/99 PTS A 51 with the exception of item 1. which was withdrawn due to a parliamentary scrutiny reservation from the French delegation.

3. **Open debate on the area of Freedom, Justice and Security**

The Council held an open debate on the area of freedom, security and justice. The Presidency introduced the debate, pointing out that the European Council of Tampere has brought significant achievements in respect of the area of freedom, justice and security, building on the 1998 Vienna Action Plan and the Amsterdam Treaty.

Delegations congratulated the Presidency for the organisation and the outcome of the European Council of Tampere, stressing their commitment to fully implement the Tampere conclusions. Several delegations underlined the importance of smooth collaboration between the Commission and the Council with a view to meeting the targets set by the European Council. The preparation for the accession of the candidate countries should especially focus on the implementation of the Tampere conclusions.

The Portuguese delegation expressed its intention as the future Presidency to co-operate closely with both the Commission and the Council, and to do its utmost in order to meet the targets set by the Amsterdam Treaty, the Vienna Action Plan and the Tampere European Council.

4. **Follow up of the European Council of Tampere**

The Council held a debate on the work programme set out in the Tampere European Council conclusions. It was pointed out that it was of the utmost importance to stick to the tight timetable given in the conclusions and to agree between the Presidency, the Commission and the Council Secretariat on what should be done, how, when, and by whom.

The Commission informed the Council that the first elements on a scoreboard would be presented during the Justice and Home Affairs Council's December session. Following discussion by the Council and a debate with the European Parliament, the Commission would draw up a final version of the scoreboard which would have to be adapted continuously in order to take account of results achieved in this area. The scoreboard would not be limited to the Tampere European Council conclusions but would also cover targets foreseen in the Amsterdam Treaty and the Vienna Action Plan.

Delegations stressed that it was of the utmost importance to fully implement the targets which have been set by the Amsterdam Treaty, the Vienna Action Plan and the Tampere European Council. The incoming Presidencies underlined their willingness to fully co-operate with Commission and Council with a view to meeting European citizens' expectations and concerns.

5. **EURODAC – Regulation on comparison of fingerprints of asylum applicants and certain other aliens**
– State of play

doc. 12317/99 EURODAC 18

The Council took note of the state of play on the Eurodac Regulation and mandated the competent bodies to continue examination of the outstanding issues with a view to enabling the Council to reach agreement by the end of the year. The Opinion of the European Parliament, which is expected in November 1999, will be taken into account.

The Council took note of an intervention by the Danish delegation announcing that Denmark wished to take part in the Eurodac Regulation on an intergovernmental basis in full respect of the Protocol on the position of Denmark.

6. **Draft negotiation mandate on Dublin parallel agreement with Norway and Iceland**

docs 12327/99 ASILE 39 RESTREINT
11710/99 ASILE 34
11096/99 ASILE 30 RESTREINT

The Council took note of the state of play as regards the draft mandate for the Commission to negotiate with Iceland and Norway an agreement aimed at extending to these two countries the rules applied by the Member States under the Dublin Convention. Most delegations supported the Commission's approach to conclude a Community agreement. The Netherlands delegation maintained a reservation, expressing its preference for a mixed agreement.

The Council invited the Permanent Representatives Committee to solve the outstanding questions with a view to the negotiations with Iceland and Norway being opened without delay.

7. **Council decision on opening negotiations between Europol and third countries and international organisations**

doc. 11854/2/99 EUROPOL 43 REV 2

The Council attempted to reach agreement on the draft decision authorising the Director of Europol to enter into negotiations with third States and international organisations. No consensus could, however, be achieved in respect of determining the countries and organisations with which negotiations should be launched first.

The Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examination of the draft decision with a view to reaching consensus before the end of the year.

8. **Convention on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters**
– Interception of telecommunications

doc. 12322/99 COPEN 48

On the basis of a compromise proposal drafted by the Presidency, the Council held a further exchange of views on interception of telecommunications.

The Council mandated its competent bodies to examine the compromise proposal in depth and to continue examination of the other outstanding issues with a view to reaching agreement on the draft Convention at the Justice and Home Affairs Council's December session.

9. **Information of national Parliaments as regards JHA matters**

doc. 11259/99 JAI 72

The Presidency pointed out that informing national parliaments on Justice and Home Affairs matters was closely linked with bringing the European Union closer to citizens and was considered to be a horizontal matter. The Council Secretariat will draw up a report outlining Member States' existing practices for informing national parliaments. The Council will revert to the topic once the report has been drawn up.

10. **Any other business**

No items were raised under this heading.
