



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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"I" ITEM NOTE

from: The Presidency

to : Permanent Representatives Committee

Subject : Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum
- Continuation until 1 January 2012 and re-evaluation by Coreper

1. Coreper decided on the working structures for establishing an area of Freedom, Security and Justice following the entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty at its meeting on 17 March 1999 (doc. 6166/2/99). The Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum (SCIFA) was set up as part of a new working structure to prepare the Council's discussions with regard to immigration, frontiers and asylum.
2. SCIFA was initially set up for a five-year transitional period. That mandate was further extended by Coreper on 24 March 2004 for a further period of two years (doc. 7440/04), and again on 29 March 2006 "*until such time as the overall working structures in the JHA area are reviewed in the light of relevant developments*" (doc. 7606/06).

3. In the course of the preparation work in view of the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, Coreper reviewed the working structures in the JHA area and concluded as follows with regards to SCIFA:
 - (a) SCIFA shall continue to meet until 1 January 2012. Before that time, the necessity of having SCIFA shall be re-evaluated by Coreper, taking into account the efficiency and coherence of Council working structures.
 - (b) SCIFA shall focus its discussions on strategic issues where COSI would not be able to contribute and meet as necessary, as convened by the Presidency.
 - (c) SCIFA could be involved, when deemed appropriate, in legislative work. Coreper shall remain solely responsible for preparing legislative acts.
4. Coreper is invited to confirm this arrangement, in accordance with Article 19(3) of the Council's Rules of Procedure.
