

## ANNEX VI INTERIM NARRATIVE REPORT

- This report must be completed and signed by the Contact person
- The information provided below must correspond to the financial information that appears in the financial report.
- Please complete the report using a typewriter or computer (you can find this form at the following address <Specify>).
- Please expand the paragraphs as necessary.
- Please refer to the Special Conditions of your grant contract and send one copy of the report to each address mentioned
- The Contracting Authority will reject any incomplete or badly completed reports.
- The answer to all questions must cover the reporting period as specified in point 1.6

### 1. Description

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- 1.1. Name of beneficiary of grant contract:  
DIRECCION GENERAL DE LA GUARDIA CIVIL/Fiscal and Border Command
- 1.2. Name and title of the Contact person :  
[REDACTED]
- 1.3. Name of partners in the Action:
- 1.4. Title of the Action:  
Project SEAHORSE
- 1.5. Contract number:  
MIGR/2005/103-569
- 1.6. Start date and end date of the reporting period:  
13<sup>th</sup> December 2005- 31st December 2006
- 1.7. Target country(ies) or region(s):  
MOROCCO, MAURITANIA, Senegal, Cape Verde
- 1.8. Final beneficiaries &/or target groups<sup>1</sup> (if different) (including numbers of women and men):  
Police Euro-African Conference: 137 (71 foreigners, 46 from Spain)  
Visit African Authorities: 13  
Training Courses on illegal immigration: 34  
Training Courses for Mauritania Maritime Service: 25  
Liaison Officers: 2  
Joint Patrols: in Morocco about 90 officers (half Spanish)  
In Senegal about 40 officers (16 Spanish)
- 1.9. Country (ies) in which the activities take place (if different from 1.7):

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<sup>1</sup> "Target groups" are the groups/entities who will be directly positively affected by the project at the Project Purpose level, and "final beneficiaries" are those who will benefit from the project in the long term at the level of the society or sector at large.

## **2. Assessment of implementation of Action activities**

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### 2.1. Activities and results

Please list all the activities in line with Annex 1 of the contract during the reporting period

Activity 1:

#### **I Euro-African Police Conference, made at Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. 6-10 November 2006**

One of the objectives pursuit by SEAHORSE project is to develop a transnational coordination between the central services combating illegal immigration with a view to fostering coordination, dialogue, sharing experience and information between the specialised services of the national administrations

In this chapter has been made an annual meeting Europe-Africa in order to identify and network partners responsible for migration management of the African countries concerned as well as to establish a process of regular dialogue with them. The first meeting has been organized in the year 2006 in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. The 4 African countries that the project pretend to involve initially: Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal and Cape Verde have participated. Besides they have been invited representatives from European Commission, Frontex, Europol, Member States, another African countries and relevant Spanish Authorities in the field of combating illegal immigration.

The total number of participants (See annex) has been 71 foreign people, included 29 from different African countries, and 46 from Spain.

The program of the Conference it is attached.

A report of the conference results is also attached, with explanation about difficulties founded in the Conference implementation.

Anyway the following objectives have been deal during the conference:

To raise the African awareness of respect for human rights, and the importance of stemming illegal migration for Europe

To encourage the reintegration of returnees from the concerned countries in their community of origin

To foster the development of expertise in the migration field and a better understanding of migration phenomena in the region, such as their link to development, by ensuring the documentation of persons, collating, processing and disseminating information and best practices

To establish relations and a Maghreb-Sub-Saharan Africa dialogue on migration issues. In particular with the Seahorse countries (Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, Cape Verde, Spain and Portugal) (See Seahorse network agreements)

Activity 2:

### **Visit of Authorities**

In order to facilitate the success and preparation of these international meetings and to organize Joint Patrols and other activities, Spanish Authorities have visited the African countries concerned

In the case of Morocco nowadays good relations between Spain and Morocco governments have addressed the visit, mainly with the purpose of making evaluation of joint patrols between Morocco and Spain, which it is in benefit not only of Spain but also all Europe

In the case of Mauritania the visit has been made with the purpose to make a first evaluation of the progress on the implementation of the Spain-Mauritania agreements regarding the implementation of joint patrol, deployment of Liaison Officers and Organization of a Mauritania Maritime Service

In terms of reciprocity Migration Authorities of the African countries concerned have been invited to visit Spain in order to know best practices in the European Union on the matter, including operational measures and state of the art technologies used to combat illegal immigration, including the SIVE system

African Participants during 2006 : Number 7 from Mauritania and 6 from Senegal (See annex)

In the case of Cape Verde the visit was cancelled at the last moment due to the change of the staff in the Cape Verde Police.

Chief of Cape Verde Police attended to the Euroafrican Police Conference in Las Palmas, so it was decided not to make a second visit in 2006. If necessary it will be done during year 2008.

In the case of Morocco the visits have been made on a bilateral basis.

The Spanish delegations visiting the concerned countries had until 6 members and they lasted until 5 days in the case of Morocco and Mauritania, and 6 days in the case of Senegal and Cape Verde

Activity 3.1:

### **Training courses on illegal immigration**

They have been developed 2 integral courses on illegal immigration for officers (directly involved in the fight against illegal immigration) from the African countries concerned, (Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal and Cape Verde) in order to improve the training of all the staff. The methodology will be to train the trainers

The target group have been Officials of High and Medium Rank appointed to Services responsible of combating illegal immigration at Central level and/or appointed to Ports and Airports suspicious to be used as departure points to Europe by criminal organisations for trafficking in human beings

As problems related to illegal immigration affected also as departure point, Guinea Bissau, the activity has been extended to nationals from this country

The courses have been realised in Spain because of two main reasons

In the first place it is expected that these courses will contribute to develop a transnational coordination between the central services combating illegal immigration with a view to fostering coordination, dialogue, sharing experience and information between the specialised services of the national administrations

concerned. So the fact that migration responsible from different African countries will attend together to the courses, it is expected will contribute to facilitate this objective and network partners responsible for migration management of the African countries concerned

In the second hand it is essential to show the participants in a practical way which are the best practices in the field on migration management at the European Union, in order to build the capacities of staff in charge of migration, with full respect for human rights and to show them in a practical way how to realise it

This way of practical training can contribute also to aware them of the difficulties and risks that their nationals coming to Europe as illegal immigrants has to face to manage the dream of migration to Europe

The courses have been developed in Almería, including some practical visits according to the Programme attached.

The first course was realised on 2-6 October 2006 with 17 participants from 5 countries.

The second one was realised on 27 November-1 December 2006 with the participation of 17 participants from 5 countries. (See annexes).

In the original plan was foreseen the participation of 20 participants per course, nevertheless, Mauritania sent less participants of the ones it was invited to send because of duty needs. As during these dates the illegal immigration problems on this country was very heavy.

Activity 3.2:

### **Training Courses for Maritime Service of Mauritania**

In the case of Mauritania they have been developed specific courses in order to help this country to establish a Maritime Service, with the main objective of combating illegal immigration.

They have been organised 3 courses per year for divers, vessel pilots and sailors, and vessel mechanics

The total number of participants per year has been 25 persons from Mauritania Gendarmerie. Some bilateral contacts have been established with Mauritania and the lack of capacities and infrastructures force to implement this kind of training in Spain because of didactical, practical and cost purposes

The importance to help this Mahgreb country in the construction of a maritime Service, fall on the fact that it is necessary to improve border control in two key regions. The Senegal river and the coast, especially around Nouakcote and Noudhibou in which port are based more than 3000 fishing boats, many of them suspicious to be involved in collaboration with illegal immigration activities

Mauritania is a key country in the Atlantic route of Sub-Saharan illegal immigration and because of that it is necessary to make a special effort in order to manage the collaboration of this country in the fight against illegal migration

Due to the practical nature of the courses some basic material has to be provided, especially clothes for divers and tools for mechanics.

Spain through bilateral programmes has provided also Mauritania with material on this field

Participants: Number 25 from Mauritania (See annex)

The program of the courses it is attached.

As results it is necessary to remark that these crew formed by Guardia civil, have started to participate in Spanish-Mauritanian joint patrols, using 4 vessels given by Spain to Mauritania.

Activity 4:

#### **Initiation of a network of Liaison Officers**

It has been initiated and developed a network of liaison officers on port and airport controls in order to step up the fight against illegal immigration following the recommendations of the Hague Programme. The task of these temporal Liaison officers will include the exchange of information between the administrations concerned

According to relevant information available for our services, it is known that almost all the immigration via/from Africa to Spain, and later to the rest of Europe, go directly from Morocco using "pateras" and another means of transport, and in the case of old vessels, they make a last scale in ports of Mauritania, Cape Verde or Senegal

During the year 2006 has been deployed a Liaison Officer from Spain in Mauritania and Senegal and 2 in Morocco.

In the last case on a bilateral base. It is necessary to say that Seahorse project has created complementary synergies with another relevant projects developed by Guardia civil in cooperation with the European Commission such as Atlantis and Caboblanco project.



It is necessary to say as it was written in the addenda signed between Aeneas Program and Guardia Civil, that the flows of migration changed dramatically during the first months of year 2006.

Guardia Civil presented to European commission two complementary projects in order to combat illegal immigration from Africa towards Europe.

On the first place Seahorse project, that included some activities like joint patrol with Morocco, as it was the main route when this project was presented, and on the other hand, Atlantis project funded by Argo Programme of the European Commission, that pretended anticipate the fight against a new route that was starting at the end of year 2005 from Noadhibou (Mauritania).

Besides another factors, the success of joint patrols between Spain-Morocco under the umbrella of Seahorse project, and so, the modification of the flow in the first place to Mauritania, and later Senegal and even Guinea Bissau, advised to Spanish Authorities, to increase the joint patrols in these new areas, mainly Mauritania and Senegal, and not to increase in Morocco as it was foreseen in Seahorse project initially.

Agreement with Aeneas Program was signed in order to update activities funded by Seahorse project to the new reality on the ground.

This has been the main cause of modification of the original Seahorse project, especially regarding the deployment of Liaison officers and the implementation of

joint patrols in the different concerned countries (Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal and Cape Verde).

Coming back to the original reason for implementation of this activity, it is necessary to say that the concept of early warning system as it is done with SIVE system, it is the main purpose of deployment of Liaison Officers

The main task of them will be to promote regional collaboration by networking port and airport authorities and providing advice and expertise of staff in charge of managing immigration and raising the African awareness of respect for human rights

Also they will have to look after especially of building a net able to contribute to create an early warning system, that could be able to prevent European authorities about suspicious movements of old vessels and/or fishing boats in the ports where they are deployed, in order to establish proper countermeasures by the Services of concerned Member States.

During year 2007 the deployment has continued in Morocco, Mauritania and Senegal and also has been extended to Cape Verde

During 2008, it will be studied to extend the action to Gambia, Guinea Bissau, and Guinea Conakry

In the same way have been deployed in Spain, Liaison Officers from Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal and if necessary Cape Verde to Spain, mainly Canary Islands

In the case of Liaison Officers from Africa in Spain it is expected it will contribute actively to identification of their nationals in order to manage a more quick repatriation

Activity 5:

#### **Joint patrols with African Police Forces**

It has been evaluated and possible improved the capacity to implement border surveillance of Morocco through operational cooperation

The southern Mediterranean is one of the main sources of migration to the European Union and one of the major crossroads of international migration

The Maghreb, especially Morocco, is a region that is heavily affected by migration, not just as a region of origin but also, increasingly, as a region of transit and even destination, essentially from Su-Saharan Africa

Morocco is faced with major flows of illegal migrants in transit, often waiting an opportunity to get into Europe

The objective of this activity accomplish the priorities of the Community cooperation with the third countries as defined at EU level. Through joint patrols Spain is contributing to strengthen Morocco capacity to manage migration and combat human trafficking, besides of preventing illegal immigration more effectively

Since second half 2004 Spain has agreed with Morocco the implementation of joint patrols in order to improve Morocco border management capacities and to create a climate of mutual trusting and confidence between services responsible of border surveillance in both countries.

The benefits of this actions are evident. It is still too early to make a effective evaluation, but it has been noticed in the second half of 2004 a decreasing in the number of pateras arriving to Spain from Morocco, in both areas Mediterranean and Atlantic

As it is written in the draft made by RAC of the 5<sup>th</sup> Periodical Risk analysis on EU Member States external EU borders it has to be said that " In 2004 Spanish authorities registered 13.635 cases of illegal immigration by sea. Although this figure expresses an 18% decrease compared to 2003, Spain still faces the majority of illegal immigration at the external sea borders of the E.U. The Canary Islands remained the main point of entry (8426) followed by the Strait of Gibraltar (7245) In this respect the effectiveness of the implemented SIVE system has to be mentioned, but also it has to be done evaluation of the implementation of Spanish-Morocco joint patrols

It is believed that Morocco has to be a priority for AENEAS program, so within this framework programme and in order to contribute to the implementation of effective control and surveillance of European external borders, AENEAS should be an instrument that support Member States and third countries like Morocco who endure, for the benefit of the Community, a lasting and heavy financial burden in this respect

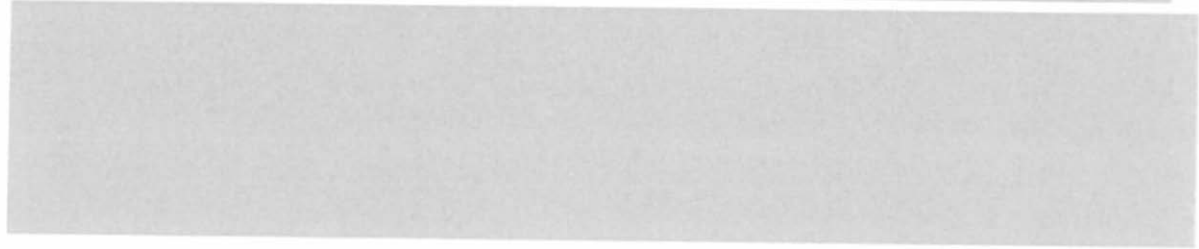
It is essential to achieve the objectives of AENEAS programme in the field of steamming illegal immigration and to support practical measures including by means of operational cooperation in order to evaluate and possibly improve the capacity to implement border control of Morocco authorities

These financial efforts can be used as a mean to support cooperation in another matters, like future implementation of readmission agreements, but in any case all actions that Morocco can put in place reinforcing patrolling in the territory under his control, will go in benefit of all the E.U, via reducing the pressure of illegal immigration in our external borders

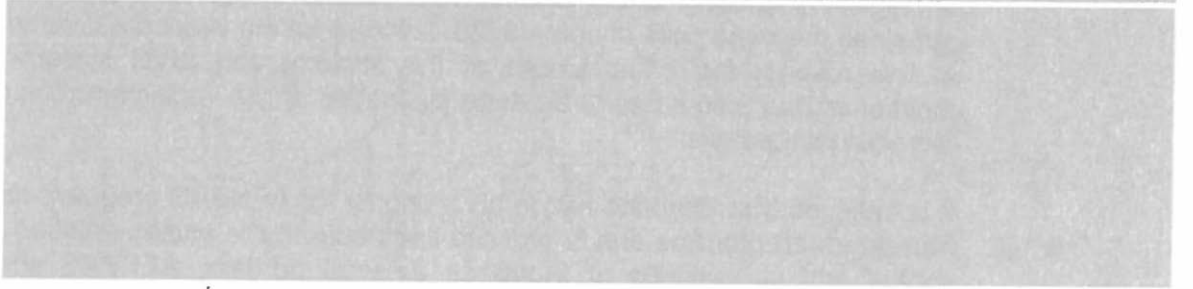
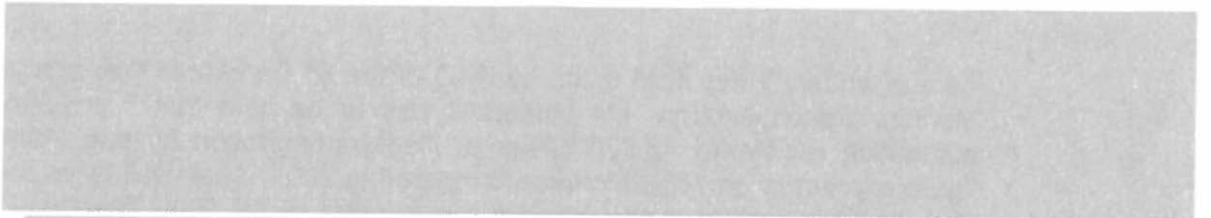
These objectives have been managed as the illegal immigration flows from Morocco have been reduced. Nevertheless this success of Seahorse project during year 2006 has supposed the opening of new routes from Mauritania and Senegal mainly. So it has been signed on Seahorse addenda, in order to update the funding efforts to the new realities on the ground (see explanation on activity 4)

Because of that the number and extension of joint patrols with Morocco has not been fulfilled as it has been necessary to start joint patrols with Mauritania and Senegal during year 2006.

The joint patrols realised with Morocco during 2006 have been finally implemented in these areas

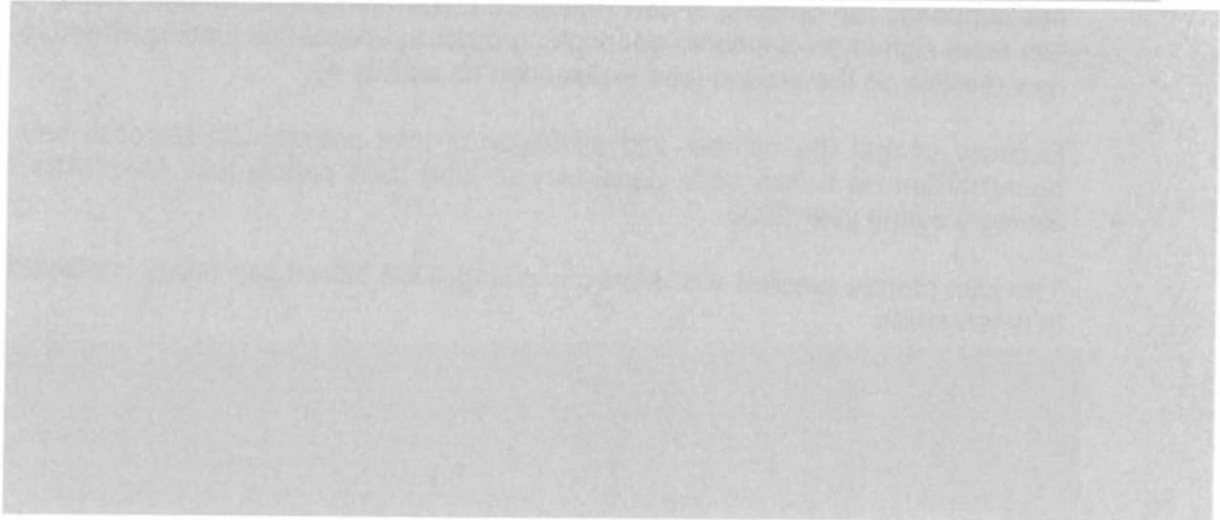
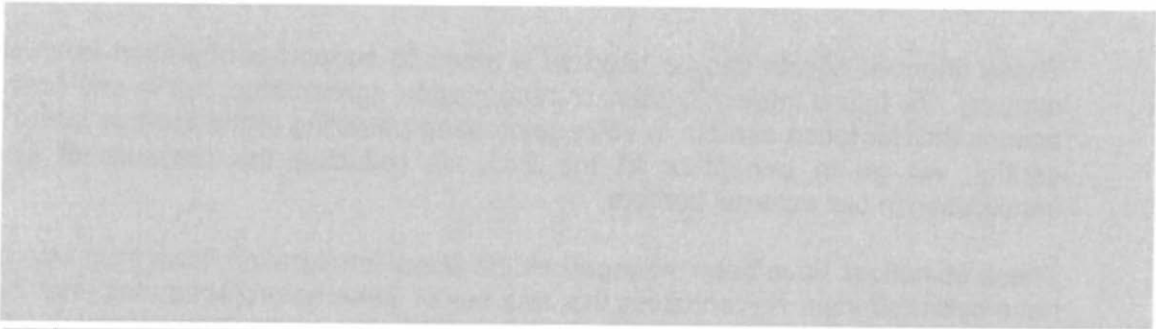


As it has been said besides in order to prevent and combating the opening of new routes of illegal immigration by sea from Africa towards Europe, have been made maritime joint patrol also with another countries involved in Seahorse project like Mauritania and Senegal. If necessary also with Cape Verde Police Forces in future



It is annexed statistic regarding the results of different joint patrols.

2.2. Please list all contracts (works, supplies, services) above 5000€ awarded for the implementation of the action during the reporting period, giving for each contract the amount, the award procedure followed and the name of the contractor





2.3. Please provide an updated action plan <sup>2</sup>

YEAR 2007		PROJECT SEAHORSE												
Activity	Semester 1						Semester 2						Implementing body	
	Month 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
Preparation Activity 1 (Meeting Europe-Africa)														Applicant
Execution Activity 1 (Meeting Europe-Africa)														Applicant and Associated Institution
Preparation Activity 2 (Visit of Authorities)														Applicant
Execution Activity 2 (Visit of Authorities).														Applicant Mauritania
Preparation Activity 3 (Illegal immigration courses)														Applicant
Execution Activity 3 (Illegal immigration courses).														Applicant Cape Verde, Morocco Senegal , Mauritania
Preparation Activity 4 (Maritime courses)														Applicant
Execution Activity 4 (Maritime courses).														Applicant Mauritania
Preparation Activity 5 (joint patrols)														Applicant Morocco Mauritania Senegal, Cape Verde
Execution Activity 5 (Joint patrols)														Applicant Morocco Mauritania Senegal, Cape Verde

### 3. Partners and other Co-operation

3.1. How do you assess the relationship between the formal partners of this Action (i.e. those partners which have signed a partnership statement)? Please specify for each partner organisation

Cooperation with all the Seahorse countries is totally satisfactory.

As regards a memorandum of understanding have been signed between Spain and Mauritania, Senegal and Cape Verde in order to implement joint patrols an to combat illegal immigration.

<sup>2</sup> This plan will cover the financial period between the interim report and the next report.

Success of Seahorse project has contributed to the presentation of a new project called "Seahorse network", also approved by Aeneas Programme

Project SEAHORSE-Network consists of setting up a regional secure network to exchange information on illegal immigration by sea with a special focus on suspect ships and persons devoted to that matter.

This network will be based on contact points in each country that will be connected by Hi-Tech in order to achieve a rapid and secure exchange of information

All the Seahorse project countries support this initiative. Portugal has been included in the project, and in future the net could be extended to another European and African countries.

3.2. How would you assess the relationship between your organisation and State authorities in the Action countries? How has this relationship affected the Action?

The relation is totally satisfactory. There was not interference in the job of different Police Forces to combat illegal immigration.

3.3. Where applicable, describe your relationship with any other organisations involved in implementing the Action:

- Associate(s) (if any)
- Sub-contractor(s) (if any)
- Final Beneficiaries and Target groups
- Other third parties involved.

3.4. Where applicable, outline any links you have developed with other actions

Among the actions included in Project SEAHORSE for the year 2006 are included "Joint patrols with Morocco" in order to reduce the flows of illegal immigration from Africa to Europe.

The success of this joint patrols and also bilateral actions from Spanish and Morocco government have managed to reduce in big number these illegal immigration flows.

But due to this, new maritime routes have been opened at the beginning of the year through Mauritania, and later from Senegal. (All of them countries included in SEAHORSE Project Action)

In the same way as regarding Seahorse project, SPANISH GUARDIA CIVIL anticipated the problem that was coming from Mauritania. So it was presented projects related to SEAHORSE to the ARGO program. These projects only for year 2006 were approved and called ATLANTIS and CABOBLANCO. So from 15 May 2006 joint patrols with Mauritania were initiated with success also.

But the flows did not stop, they have increased in this case from SENEGAL, to such a point that situation in Canary Island it was critical in the summer of 2006.

Because of this situation also FRONTEX have started a joint operation to help SPAIN to combat the situation. HERA 2006

But FRONTEX was not financing all the efforts made by Spain, in concret by Guardia Civil to combat this phenomom as it was agreed between Spanish Authorities and Frontex to give preference for funding during second half of 2006, operational means from another European countries, who participated in joint operation HERA. So Guardia Civil started also joint patrols with Senegal not financed by Frontex, and this, was a very big effort for our staff and budget.

So after communication to the Aeneas Program It was adapted Seahorse budget to real situation on the ground signing addenda to the project in such a way that joint patrols in Africa were extended to all the concerned countries covered by the project (Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal and Cape Verde).

With this decision Aeneas Programme, through the Seahorse project has become the main instrument to help Spain to combat illegal immigration by sea towards Europe during year 2006.

The synergies between different actions started by Guardia Civil with the support of Aeneas and Argo programmes have been successful as the number of illegal immigrant coming to Canary islands has been reduced in sensible number.

Model initiated by Seahorse project and also Atlantis project ( Combating illegal immigration in the departure countries through joint patrols with African Police Forces, not only in European costs) has been put as an example for different Organization like Frontex and as a model to follow. So this success has supposed the repetition of Hera operation during 2007 and probably in 2008.

The benefits for Europe of this way to combating illegal immigration is clear, as illegal immigrants are intercepted in African territory avoiding the physical arrival to Europe, and further problems like repatriation, etc.

With any doubt Seahorse countries are making a big effort in benefit of the EU as a whole, avoiding the arrival of an important number of illegal immigrants to European coasts.

Further more Spain has developed bilateral technical assistance to Mauritania during year 2006 giving Mauritania Gendarmerie without any cost 4 vessels.

During 6 months European Commission through MRR Programme has financed the spends of this vessels and practical training for Mauritanian crews.

Once more sinergies with Seahorse project has been showed like a great advantage, as part of these Mauritanian officers, were trained in Spain, under the umbrella of Seahorse project.

- 3.5. If your organisation has received previous EC grants in view of strengthening the same target group, in how far has this Action been able to build upon/complement the previous one(s)? (List all previous relevant EC grants).

See point 3.4.-

**Atlantis project.** ARGO Programme. Joint patrols with Mauritania Gendarmerie in Noadhibou area. 15 May 2006- 17 August 2006

**Caboblanco Project.** ARGO Programme. Joint patrols with Mauritania Gendarmerie in Noadhibou area. 17 August 2006- 15 December 2006

**MRR Mauritania.** October 2006-April 2007. Joint patrols and training of Mauritania crew for 4 vessels donated by Guardia Civil.

#### 4. Visibility

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How is the visibility of the EU contribution being ensured in the Action?

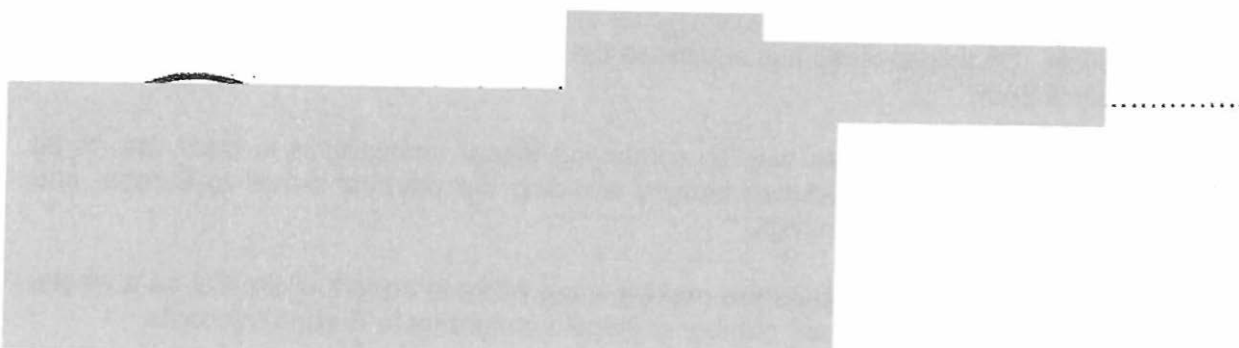
In all the courses and Conference have been used posters with the anagram of the project and the Aeneas Programme, with the legend "financed by Aeneas Programme. European Commission".

Also they have been bought some medallions with this anagram to be delivered to participants in the different activities funded by the project.

In all the meeting with African Authorities and African Police Forces has been presented Seahorse project as a project funded by European Commission and Aeneas Programme. Besides Guardia Civil has produced a video, with explanation regarding all activities developed in Africa. (a copy it is attached)

**The European Commission may wish to publicise the results of Actions. Do you have any objection to this report being published on EuropeAid Co-operation Office website? If so, please state your objections here.**

No objection



Date report due: ...28/12/2007.....

Date report sent: ...28/12/2007.....



### CONFERENCIA SEAHORSE 2006

El principal objetivo de la conferencia era traer a un mismo foro policial el mayor número de delegados de países africanos y europeos para que ambos pudieran dar su visión del problema y pudieran intercambiar opiniones. Como era de esperar las visiones fueron muy distintas. Para la mayoría de los países europeos, sobre todos los del norte, fue la primera experiencia con países africanos y muchos expresaron a la organización el interés que la conferencia les había producido.

La conferencia tuvo lugar del 6 al 10 de noviembre, en el Hotel Santa Catalina de Las Palmas. A la misma asistieron representantes de 14 países africanos y 22 europeos, y organizaciones como Europol, Interpol, Frontex, ICMPD. La categoría de los componentes de las delegaciones fue muy variada, desde Generales o adjuntos a Ministros o Secretarios de Estados hasta inspectores, predominando mayor categoría entre las delegaciones africanas.

Asimismo asistieron representantes de otras administraciones españolas: MAEC, SASEMAR, Armada, D. Gral. de Inmigración (MTAS), DAVA, CNP, SES. También asistieron los enlaces de Interior en los países africanos presentes en la Conferencia. La apertura fue realizada por el [REDACTED]

La conferencia se desarrolló según el programa, sin que hubiera incidencias dignas de mención, salvo las "exigencias" de algunos delegados africanos sobre sus billetes (petición business class), comidas, etc. La organización fue felicitada en diversas ocasiones por los asistentes por la calidad de la conferencia, no sólo por el contenido sino por todos los actos desarrollados.

Los únicos problemas encontrados han sido de planificación especialmente de los viajes de los Delegados africanos. La falta de vuelos con horarios conveniente ha obligado a que algunos de ellos debieran hacer escalas en otras ciudades o países bien a la ida o a la vuelta de la Conferencia.

Igualmente el sentido de la formalidad en algunos de esos países no es igual que el que rige en Europa, motivo por el cual alguno de los Delegados no se ha presentado a la Conferencia, y ni siquiera se ha anticipado la ausencia con los consiguientes gastos ocasionados, y problemas logísticos creados

En general las ponencias de los países africanos fueron más interesantes que las realizadas por algunos europeos. Cabría destacar la ausencia de Argelia y Malta. Tampoco asistieron la Comisión Europea, UA y CEDEAO, está última pese a haberse emitido los billetes aéreos correspondientes.

El Cabildo de Gran Canaria ofreció una visita turística y una comida a los asistentes, con gran satisfacción de los participantes..

El ejercicio realizado consistió en la simulación de llegada de una patera en el puerto de Las Palmas, con participación de GC, CNP, SASEMAR, Cruz Roja y protección civil. La espera que tuvo que realizarse en el puerto bajo un calor intenso deslució un ejercicio en el que se había invertido mucho tiempo, personal y esfuerzo.

