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NOTE

from: General Secretariat
to: Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum
Subject : **Report of the 6th meeting of the participants of the Centre for Land Borders (CLB)**

Delegations will find attached the report of the 6th meeting of the participants of the Centre for Land Borders, transmitted by the CLB.

REPORT

The Centre for Land Borders (CLB) held its 6th meeting on 10 October 2003. The following items of the agenda are considered by the Secretariat of the CLB to be of special interest for the Common Unit (CU):

1. All participants welcomed the task given by the CU (Doc. 12693/03 FRONT 124 COMIX 563) to start setting up focal point offices as well in the Acceding States as soon as possible, based on an evaluation by the Risk Analysis Centre (in close cooperation with the CLB) as to where such hands-on training would be recommendable.
2. Greece (for the last two weeks of November 2003) and Austria (for February 2004) announced joint operations. Both will run in the framework of the CLB. Operation plans (describing the aim of the operation, necessary skills of participating guest officers, etc.) will be forwarded in advance via the CLB.
3. The Border Guard Directorate of the German Bundesgrenzschutz outlined the national concept for establishing a staff pool made up of border guard officers to serve abroad in joint operations and focal point offices (in the framework of the CLB or other centres). All participants of the CLB welcomed the idea of a staff pool for international exchange measures in general. Such a staff pool would ensure that officers could be sent even on short notice and that the required standard of necessary skills (language, detection of document forgery, knowledge about visa provisions and Schengen regulations, etc.) could be met.

4. The activities of COLPOFER (cooperation of European railway police and railway security services) were presented. The main task of COLPOFER is exchanging experiences and information about measures and systems to prevent crime in connection with railway traffic. Inter alia, COLPOFER set up a working group on the "prevention of illegal entry in border-crossing railways". The work of this subgroup is especially of great interest in the fight against illegal migration using freight and passenger trains, therefore of great interest for the CLB. The participants of the CLB will therefore focus on this phenomenon as well.

5. The CLB will immediately set up a working group to examine establishing an "information system" between land border crossing points. The first question will be to find out whether there is a need for an information exchange in addition to the existing information exchange via existing channels (CIREFI Early Warning System, ICONet, bilateral exchange measures, etc.). If such a need is seen, the question of the need for additional "exchange systems" will have to be handled. This has to take into consideration all existing systems, the other centres and kinds of borders (air, sea), data protection regulations, etc. Thus, a possible result of this working group could be the description of the existing situation and the conclusion that the existing "channels" should be used more intensively and that there is no need for further systems.

6. The next meeting of the CLB will be held in Berlin on 6 February 2004.
