

12710/04

LIMITE

ASILE 50

TRANSLATION PROVIDED BY PRESIDENCY

NOTE

from : Presidency

Subject : Common European asylum system

Objective

The aim of the EU in the second phase of the common European asylum system is to establish a common policy on asylum, subsidiary and temporary protection. The EU also envisages the establishment of a European asylum office to facilitate co-operation in matters relating to the asylum system.

Measures

1. The conclusions of the Tampere European Council and the Constitutional Treaty prescribe the development of a common policy on asylum and on subsidiary and temporary protection.

2. An evaluation of the measures taken on the basis of the Amsterdam Treaty will pave the way for the gradual implementation of the second phase of the common European asylum system, allowing new measures to be taken by 2010.
3. Close practical co-operation between the Member States is also essential. Its main purpose should be to develop a common asylum procedure. The Member States will need to compile and apply information on countries of origin, and coordinate their arrangements for the reception of asylum seekers. Regular meetings of the heads of the European immigration and asylum services can shape such cooperation. All this should lead, possibly by 2010, to the establishment of a European office in matters relating to the common European asylum system. This body should play a role in the field of financial solidarity and the division of responsibilities among the Member States.
4. It might also be possible in the second phase to establish a common system for processing applications from specific categories of asylum seekers, such as asylum seekers from certain countries of origin or those who have been intercepted at sea, and to spread among the Member States refugees and persons qualifying for subsidiary protection who have gained admission in that procedure. The European asylum office referred to above should play a coordinating role when the measures laid down in the Constitutional Treaty are applied. In the meantime, pilot projects could be launched by the Member States in association with the Commission and the UNHCR, co-financed with Community funds.

Propositions:

1. The common European asylum system envisaged in Tampere must be adopted in 2010 and should build on an evaluation to be carried out in late 2006.

2. Close practical cooperation between the Member States is essential in the second phase of the common European asylum system. A decision on the establishment of a European asylum office by 2010 must be taken during the interim review of the multi annual programme.

3. A pilot project will be started in jointly assessing applications from certain categories of asylum seekers and in spreading among the Member States refugees and persons qualifying for subsidiary protection who have gained admission in that procedure.
