



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from :	French delegation
to :	Coreper/Council
Subject :	Strengthening the operations of the FRONTEX Agency, particularly in the Mediterranean

As announced by the Minister for Immigration, Integration, National Identity and Development Solidarity at the informal JHA Council in July 2009, the French delegation herewith confirms that it would like the question of "strengthening the operations of the FRONTEX Agency, particularly in the Mediterranean" to be included on the agenda for the JHA Council meeting on 21 September 2009.

The term of office of the FRONTEX Agency's Executive Director, Mr Laitinen, has just been renewed. France feels that the importance accorded to strengthening FRONTEX, in accordance with the guidelines of the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum, is a good reason for taking advantage of the renewal of the Executive Director's term of office to hold a Council debate on the Agency's tasks and on ways of further increasing their effectiveness.

At a time when several Member States are facing an increasingly critical situation in the Mediterranean, it is up to the Member States to take specific steps at the highest level to strengthen FRONTEX operations and thereby make controls at the EU's external borders as effective as possible. It is, after all, important that this Agency, which is a key instrument in combating unauthorised immigration and is crucial to the solidarity between Member States, should come up to the expectations it has aroused, particularly in view of the crisis situation prevailing in the Mediterranean.

Now that the Stockholm programme is about to be finalised, it is time for us to agree on the approach to be adopted by the Agency.
