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NOTE

from : Greek delegation

to : Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum

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Subject : Eastern Mediterranean European Sea Borders Center

I. Introduction

Greece, after due consideration of the conclusions of the European Councils of Tampere, Seville and Thessaloniki in conjunction with:

- i. The plan for the management of the external borders of the Member States of the EU,
- ii. The comprehensive plan to combat illegal migration and trafficking on human beings in the EU,
- iii. The feasibility study for the setting – up of the European Border Guard Service,
- iv. The recent discussions in the context of SCIFA+ (Common Unit Composition) for establishing two European Sea Borders Centers located in Greece and Spain.
- v. The Spanish and Greek delegations common proposals to Strategic Committee on Immigration – Frontiers and Asylum (SCIFA), for a common working Program, as regards the above-mentioned Centers.

Presents a Draft Work Document for the Eastern Mediterranean European Sea Borders Center, located in Piraeus.

II. Project management approach

1. The planning, the management and the implementation of the Eastern Mediterranean European Sea Borders Center, located in Piraeus, will be carried out by the Director, a Senior Coast Guard Officer, designated by the competent authority in Greece (Ministry of Mercantile Marine). Moreover, national experts from Spain and other Member States, the European Commission, the EUROPOL, the Council General Secretariat and the Risk Analysis Center (R.A.C.), will have an important role in the setting-up as well as in the operation process of the Center.

2. The existing infrastructure of the Hellenic Coast Guard will be taken into account and optimization of resources will be pursued. During the planning period, flexibility in determining the precise tasks of the Center will be crucial. Consequently, a number of changes should be foreseen and permitted to allow a more realistic functioning. In line with the above, the settingup of the Center will be organized appropriately and progressively in due course.

III. Exchange of Data/ Data protection

The exchange of data shall be in full accordance with the existing National and European Union legislation.

IV. Logo of the Eastern Mediterranean European Sea Borders Center

The Center is expected to use a joint logo: the E.U. flag, designed according to the provisions of the European Council/European Commission. Below the flag, the initials of the phrase “**Eastern Mediterranean European Sea Borders Center - EMESBC**” will be written.

V. Working Language

The working language of the Center will be English: All documents have to be drawn up in English. This language shall be spoken at all meetings, while provision to employ interpreters shall only be made in exceptional cases.

VI. Organizational Structure of the Eastern Mediterranean European Sea Borders Center

- a) The Eastern Mediterranean European Sea Borders Center will consist of its Director, the staff personnel, the Secretariat and the representatives of the participating Countries.
- b) The seat of the Eastern Mediterranean European Sea Borders Center will be established in **Piraeus, Greece**.

VII. Contact Points

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VIII. Concluding Remarks

On the basis of its project management planning, Greece intends to request funding support from EU programs for the creation of the Eastern Mediterranean European Sea Borders Center.

IX. Permanent national experts

In order that the Centre should be enabled to begin its working activities as soon as possible, the Member States are encouraged to appoint the permanent experts that they would attach to the Centre for the Maritime Borders in Piraeus, and to send their data to the fax number or e-mail address cited above as soon as possible; and, in any case, not later than February 15th, 2004.
