



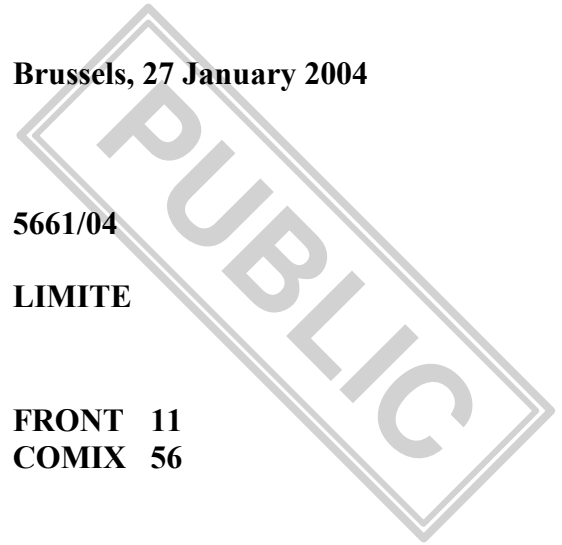
**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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LIMITE

**FRONT 11
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NOTE

From : Presidency
To : Strategic Committee on Immigration, Frontiers and Asylum/ Mixed Committee
(Norway and Iceland)
Subject : Work Programme of the ad-hoc Centres set-up in the framework of the Plan for
the management of the external borders of the Member States of the European
Union.

1. The “ Plan for the management of the external borders of the Member States of the European Union” (doc. 10019/02), agreed by the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 13 June 2002, identifies the need for a common operational co-ordination and co-operation mechanism as a key component towards the integrated management of the external borders of the Member States of the European Union.

To set up this mechanism, the plan recommends a number of measures to be taken in the short-term, including the setting up of a network structure articulated in a series of ad-hoc Centres, each of them related to the implementation of the specific measures included in the Plan. The European Council of Seville, on 21-22 June 2002, welcomed the approval of the Plan for the management of the external borders of Member States and requested the implementation of joint operations at the external borders and the immediate initiation of pilot projects open to all interested Member States before the end of 2002.

2. At the SCIFA meeting on 22 July 2002, Finland gave a detailed presentation of its proposal for a project on a common risk analysis model, as contained in doc. 11030/02. On 28 January 2003, a project on the Common Integrated Risk Analysis Model (CIRAM) was approved (doc. 6013/03). The Risk Analysis Centre commenced its work in Helsinki on 1 April 2003.

At its meeting on 22 July 2002 (doc. 11399/02) SCIFA agreed on the proposal presented by the Austrian and Swedish delegations for a project on a Core Curriculum for Border Guard Training. On 23 July 2003 (doc. 11803/03), the Austrian delegation provided additional information on the implementation of the report on the Core curriculum for border guard training (doc. 8285/2/03 REV 2), and SCIFA agreed to the creation of a “Common integrated unit”. On 22 September 2003, the Austrian delegation presented its plans to set up an ad-hoc Centre for Border Guard Training (ACT) and SCIFA approved it (doc. 12570/1/03 REV 1).

On 22 July 2002 (doc. 11399/02), SCIFA agreed to the proposal from the German delegation for the creation of an ad-hoc centre for the co-operation of border police authorities at land borders and for the joint implementation of joint operations and working visits/personnel exchange, as contained in doc. 11030/02.

Following the proposals made by the Greek and Spanish delegations, SCIFA, at its meeting on 29 October 2003 (doc. 14101/03), agreed on the creation of two Sea Borders Centres (SBC): one Centre for the Eastern Mediterranean Sea, located in Greece and another Centre for the Western Mediterranean Sea, the Atlantic and all other sea borders, located in Spain. It also agreed to setting up a Co-ordination Committee, that will act as a co-ordinator for the activities of both Centres (doc.13779/1/03 REV 1)

Following the proposal made by Italy, at its meeting on 1 December 2003 (doc. 15717/03), SCIFA agreed to the setting-up of an Air Border Centre (ABC), as set out in doc. 13524/1/03 REV 1.

3. In the framework of the Common Unit and according to the Plan for the management of the external borders of the European Union, various joint operations and pilot projects were carried out by the above mentioned Centres. A report on their implementation (doc.10058/1/03 REV 1) was presented to the Thessaloniki Council, held on 19 and 20 June 2003: it includes an evaluation, up to June 2003, of the programmes, measures and common operations which have been undertaken by Member States as requested by the Seville European Council on 21-22 June 2002.

Since then and on the basis of the periodical risk analysis provided by the RAC, an additional number of joint operations have been carried out:

Concerning the Land Borders Centre, the 7th Joint Operation (“Semper Vigilia”) from 6 to 31 October 2003 took place simultaneously in Austria, Germany and Italy and it will be continued intensively in several Member and Acceding States in 2004.

Various joint operations were carried out with regard to the control of sea borders. The Risk Analysis Centre recommended to initiate joint operations at the Spanish (southern coastline and the Canary Islands), Greek (Aegean Sea, in relation with Turkey) and Italian (islands of Lampedusa and Pantelleria, in relation with Libya and Tunisia) external sea borders.

On the basis of the previous evaluations, the International Airports Plan Centre organised, from 11 to 14 November 2003, an experimental joint operation about illegal Chinese immigration in 14 airports of 12 participating countries. A new joint operation, carried out by the Air Borders Centre, started on 18 January 2004.

4. On 12 January 2004, delegations concerned informed SCIFA of the main elements of the work programme of the ad-hoc Centres for 2004 (doc. 5333/04).

Delegations will find attached information on the work programmes, as provided by the ad-hoc Centres.

Description of main activities of the Ad hoc Centres

1. Risk Analysis Centre (RAC)

In accordance with the Action Plan for the second working period (doc. 11478/03) the RAC will produce a tailored risk analysis of the future external borders of the EU by March 2004.

The RAC will compile two periodical risk analyses during the year 2004. These will be presented to the Common Unit in April/May and in October.

In addition to these, the RAC will be able to work out other tailored risk analyses. These tailored risk analyses could be of a specific phenomenon and/or a country or geographic region which is used as a source or transit area in terms of illegal immigration.

The RAC will compile a tailored risk analysis on illegal immigration by Chinese nationals in close co-operation with the Centres for Land, Sea and Air borders. This tailored risk analysis is aimed at enabling the aforementioned centres to start with counter measures (especially joint operations) to fight that phenomenon.

The RAC will present the Action Plan on the 3rd working period (1 April – 31 December 2004) to the Common Unit in March.

2. Centre for Border Guard Training (ACT)

The Common Core Curriculum

The ACT is tasked with bringing into operation the Core Curriculum for Border Guard Training to enable its further implementation, on the basis of the ideas and experiences obtained by the EU Member States, Acceding Countries, Iceland and Norway.

International Advisory Board Conference, 12-13 February 2004

The first conference of the Permanent Support Group and the International Advisory Board (IAB), will take place on the 12 and 13 of February 2004 in Traiskirchen (Austria), under the organisation of the ACT. The conference will decide the plans for operational matters and agree common guidelines.

Seminars

The ACT will organise seminars around four themes. These Seminars will focus on the needs formulated by the Common Unit, Ad-Hoc-Centres and the national contact points. The following topics will be dealt with:

~ Seminar for Border Guards in falsified documents and respective terms in English

Situation: No common terms in falsified documents, different standard in communication

Main goals are:

- ° to develop co-operation with the National Contact Points
- ° to create a common English glossary in falsified documents.

These seminars should be held in each Member State, Acceding Countries, Norway and Iceland.

The intended outcome of the seminar is to improve and enhance communications between colleagues regarding false documents by providing a common terminology for such communication. This Seminar should be held in close co-operation with the Frontiers/False Documents Working Party.

~Seminar for Focal Point Officers

Situation: New Focal Points in the developing process now need a contact-system, “common language” and “common approach”.

To provide a platform to the Focal Points for training and further education based on their needs to establish a professional contact system, “common language” and “common approach”.

~Seminar for National Contact Points concerning Common Core Curriculum and application of System Monitoring

Situation: differences in training, quality and standards.

Main goal: to prepare, in co-operation with the National Contact Points, guidelines and advice for implementation of the Common Curriculum, in light of the development of the system monitoring methods.

~Seminar for Border Guard Training-Institutions concerning the needs that are going to be formulated by the National Contact Points

Situation: No network, co-operation in practical level is occasional

Main goal: to create a network of Border Guard Training Institutions and increase the co-operation among the national Border Guard Training Institutions in very practical ways.

Details and needs will be agreed with the National Contact Points regarding the above mentioned seminars.

Hotline

A hotline will be started by the ACT to give guidance, advice and information concerning the implementation of the Core Curriculum in the Member States, Acceding Countries, Norway and Iceland.

Monitoring system

A monitoring system for the implementation of the Core Curriculum will be developed. The instruments for data-collection will be disseminated to the Member States, Acceding Countries, Norway and Iceland and a respective reporting system will be established. The results will be analysed, interpreted and made available to the Member States, Acceding Countries, Norway and Iceland in an annual report, which is also going to contain best practices and further advice.

WEB-Catalogue

The ACT is expected to develop a web-based site which catalogues information on border guard training seminars in the Member States, Acceding Countries, Norway and Iceland.

Every officer and training institution of Member State, Acceding Country, Norway and Iceland-interested in border guard training- should be able to get concrete information out of the catalogue.

Further aims

The ACT aims to develop special ad-hoc training programmes based on the needs formulated by the Common Unit, the Ad-Hoc Centres and the National Contact Points.

The ACT will also seek to establish an EU-standard in Border guard's education. For this purpose, it will develop, on a regular basis, seminars and training to secure the implementation of the Core Curriculum and to harmonise the border guard education and further training as necessary.

3. Land Borders Centre (CLB)

The programme of the Land Border Centre will have two main priorities:

- focal point offices;
- joint operations

Focal Point Offices

Focal Point Offices are local border guard departments in charge of border control or border surveillance in a geographically defined area, situated at "hot spots" with a high volume of border crossings, document forgery and abuse of visas or with a high pressure of illegal border crossings (attempts) at the green border.

According to the task given to it by the Common Unit (doc. 12693/03), the CLB will work out and recommend appropriate locations for the setting up of (additional) Focal Point Offices in close cooperation with the RAC. These recommendations will be presented to the Common Unit, at the latest in March 2004. For that purpose a questionnaire has already been sent to the Member States and Acceding Countries. The Focal Point Offices will be located at the external Schengen land borders as well as at the external EU land borders (from May 1st, 2004). The Focal Point Offices should be operational before June 2004. At these Focal Point Offices, guest officers will support and assist the hosting border guard service which remains fully responsible for every action taken.

Joint Operations

In accordance with the recommendations of the second “Risk Analysis on EU External Borders” concerning counter measures, the CLB will in particular serve as a platform and coordination body for launching Joint Operations in Austria and Greece, the EU Member States with the land borders most affected by illegal immigration.

The operation “Semper Vigilia” will be continued intensively in several Member States and Acceding Countries in 2004. This specialised Joint Operation aims at the detection of persons using coaches as a means of transport to enter the European Union illegally, by use of forged documents or visas obtained under false pretences or with the intention to take up work illegally. The possibility to carry out fast data checks and information requests, the language skills and the knowledge about the home country of the guest officers have proven to be an enormous advantage for the deployment of guest officers.

In close co-operation with COLPOFER (Cooperation of European Railway Police and Railway Security Services) Joint Operations fighting illegal migration by using freight and passenger trains will be launched. Especially in the Acceding States, half of the total freight volume is transported by railway services. Therefore, the phenomenon of illegal migration by using freight and passenger trains is worth being examined more intensively.

4. Sea Borders Centres (SBC)

The work programme of the two Sea Border Centres (docs. 5077/04 and 5204/04) will be inspired by the Programme of measures to combat illegal immigration across the maritime borders of the European Union (doc. 15445/03) and by the recommendations of the Risk Analysis Centre (docs. 11477/03 and 15463/03 RESTREINT UE).

5. Air Borders Centre (ABC)

The Air Borders Centre's activity is planned on a six months basis. During 2004, the Air Borders Centre will pursue the enlargement of the Points of Contact network. The Air Border Points of Contact are placed within the Air Border Police offices of the International Airports.

The work programme of the ABC was submitted and approved at the Common Unit meeting of 1st December 2003 (doc. 15465/03), following the agreement reached during the meeting of the Member States and Acceding Countries participants in the ABC, held on November 27th, 2003.

Joint actions

Before 30 June 2004, three joint operations will be carried out, in order to permit the Air Borders Centre to start the creation of the needed data and information background.

A questionnaire to plan future air border police officers' exchanges has been sent to all Member States, Acceding Countries, Norway and Iceland.

Further operations will be carried out in line with the aims and purposes of the first joint operation. These operations will be conducted on a periodical basis, at least until the end of 2007, with possibly different countries being targeted.

The Air Borders Centre, with the co-operation of the ACT, will also work on proposals for the detection and the examination of forged documents.

