



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 30 April 2002

8475/02

LIMITE

**JAI 76
RELEX 70
MIGR 37**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

of: Council

on: 25/26 April 2002

Prev. doc. 8126/02 JAI 67 RELEX 63 MIGR 34

Subject: Conclusions on illegal immigration and trafficking of human beings by sea

Delegations will find attached the conclusions on illegal immigration and trafficking of human beings by sea as adopted by the Council on 25/26 April 2002.

**DRAFT CONCLUSIONS ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND
TRAFFICKING OF HUMAN BEINGS BY SEA**

1. The Council reaffirms the importance of an integrated approach to illegal immigration and trafficking of human beings in order to ensure appropriate coordination between migration policy and the best use of all the instruments available in the framework of the external relations of the European Union, in line with its conclusions of 15 April 2002.
2. The Council notes that the Commission, in line with the Comprehensive Plan to combat illegal immigration and trafficking of human beings in the European Union, approved by the Council on 28 February 2002, will start immediately and submit by February 2003 a feasibility study on the improvement of sea border controls, taking into account the diversity of European Union maritime borders and the different problems affecting Member States.
3. The Council stresses the need, in order to reinforce sea border controls, as foreseen in the Comprehensive Plan to combat illegal immigration and trafficking of human beings in the European Union, to adopt operational measures.

In particular, the following measures should be considered as a matter of priority:

- improvement of current information systems, especially the Early Warning System,
 - strengthening coordination among liaison officers posted in the countries of origin and transit of illegal immigrants.
 - use of new technologies.
4. The Council considers that, in the framework of an integrated approach, preventive measures in co-operation with third countries of embarkation, departure or transit should be promoted and developed.

5. The Council, concerned about the most recent arrival of boats used for smuggling immigrants or for trafficking of human beings which set in particular from specific mediterranean countries, urges the countries of embarkation, departure or transit of such boats to adopt all the necessary measures to prevent and combat these illegal activities as soon as possible.
6. The Council urges third countries concerned to readmit immigrants who illegally enter the territory of the Member States of the European Union.
7. The Council stresses the importance of signing, ratifying and implementing the December 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.
8. The Council invites the Permanent Representatives Committee, in accordance with the integrated approach mentioned in paragraph 1, to examine all the measures that could be adopted and implemented to prevent and combat illegal immigration and trafficking of human beings by sea and in particular measures against third States which refuse to cooperate with the European Union in combatting illegal immigration.
