

PRESS RELEASE

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Meeting of the Ministers
concerned with Immigration and TREVI

Luxembourg, 13 and 14 June 1991

President: M. Marc FISCHBACH

Minister for Justice of
the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Public statement by the Ministers concerned with Immigration

1. The Ministers concerned with Immigration held their meeting on 13 June 1991 under the Presidency of Mr FISCHBACH, Minister for Justice of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and attended by Mr BANGEMANN, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities.

2. Immigration

The Ministers approved the procedure for implementing their Decision of 28 March 1991 setting up a rapid consultation centre to deal with any problems which might be caused by large-scale migratory flows.

The Ministers welcomed the co-ordinated position of the Twelve at the International Conferences in Rome and Vienna.

3. Asylum

The Kingdom of Denmark has signed the Convention determining the State responsible for examining applications for asylum lodged in one of the Member States of the European Communities.

The aim of this Convention is to deal with difficulties resulting from the movement of applicants for asylum from one State to another and to provide applicants for asylum with a guarantee that their application will be examined by one of the Member States.

The Ministers expressed the wish that this Convention be ratified as quickly as possible.

The Ministers also welcomed the interest shown in this Convention by certain third countries.

4. Border controls

The Ministers welcomed the substantial measure of agreement reached on the Convention of the Member States of the European Communities on the crossing of their external borders.

The Ministers discussed various ways of resolving the problems raised by certain States. They instructed the ad hoc Group on Immigration to finalize all the texts so that definitive agreement could be reached.

They agreed to do their utmost to ensure that the Convention was signed by 30 June 1991.

The Ministers referred to the situation arising from Denmark's membership of both the Nordic Passport Union and the European Communities, and they approved the solution reached following talks by the Troika of the ad hoc Group on Immigration with the member countries of the Nordic Union.

5. Visas

With regard to the co-ordinated visa policy pursued by the Member States, the Ministers assessed the situation and noted that the nationals of 61 countries were subject to a visa requirement by all the Member States.

6. Computerization

The Ministers took note of the work carried out with a view to setting up a single computerized system in this field.

The Ministers reaffirmed the link between finalization of such a computerized system and the drawing up of an agreement concerning the protection of individuals with regard to automatic processing of personal data.

7. Forged documents

The Ministers took note of current or planned action to step up the fight against the use of forged documents.

8. Contacts with the European Parliament and the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees

The Ministers took note of statements by:

- the Italian Presidency on its contacts with the European Parliament;
- the Luxembourg Presidency on its contacts with the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees.

The Ministers asked future Presidencies to continue such contacts.

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The Ministers concerned with Immigration will meet in The Hague on 12 and 13 December 1991.

PRESS RELEASE

The first part of the meeting of the TREVI Group was given over to an examination of the Programme of Action of the TREVI Group relating to the measures to be taken by the Twelve in the fields of security and co-operation in order to allow the abolition of controls at internal borders in preparation for a post-1992 Europe.

In this context, Ministers adopted

- a resolution on training police personnel
- a resolution concerning co-operation in forensic police matters
- a recommendation on the posting of liaison officers within the European Community
- a recommendation on the posting of liaison officers outside the European Community.

The Ministers approved the purpose and the specific tasks of the European Drugs Intelligence Unit which had already been decided in principle previously.

They also gave instructions to the various working parties to continue examining the other issues in the Programme of Action.

The second part of the meeting was devoted to analysing problems connected with the fight against terrorism.

The Ministers welcomed the successful co-operation which had taken place during the war in the Gulf. They carried out an evaluation of the results of the two extraordinary ministerial meetings which had taken place in January and March.

They exchanged information about recent terrorist incidents.

They also discussed the organization of the TREVI Group in the future.