

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Brussels, 4 December 2012

Interinstitutional File: 2008/0243 (COD)

16332/12 ADD 1

ASILE 138 CODEC 2704

ADDENDUM TO "I/A" ITEM NOTE

from:	General Secretariat of the Council
to:	Permanent Representatives Committee (Part II)/Council
Subject:	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person (Recast) [First reading] - Political agreement

The following statement to the Council minutes shall be added to the Annex to the Annex of the above Regulation:

<u>Slovenia</u> agrees with the view of the Dublin Regulation as being one of the core elements of the Common European Asylum System, thus contributing to the efficient functioning of the EU asylum policy.

Past experience has shown the need to improve the functioning of the Dublin System, but it has also taught us that this should be done with prudence and with due attention to the horizontal nature of the Regulation. It is Slovenia's opinion that this was not duly taken into account in the process of negotiations, which is why Slovenia wishes to express serious concerns over the recast of the Dublin Regulation.

Several amended provisions could present significant administrative and financial burden and prolong the procedure. This could endanger the proper functioning of the system as a whole and as a consequence seriously exacerbate the situation of persons subjected to it.

Slovenia regrets the new arrangements regarding additional personal interview in the Dublin procedure. In our opinion the institute of this interview is sufficiently regulated in Asylum Procedures Directive which also provides for the use in this Regulation. Such duplication could present a significant administrative burden to relevant authorities of Member States.

Slovenia also regrets the shortening of the deadlines for detention in Article 28 and the provision that a person must not be restricted only because they are being subject to Dublin procedure. It is the opinion of Slovenia that this could seriously affect the ability of the Member States to efficiently carry out Dublin transfers and could have negative effect throughout the EU as a result of absconding of the applicants, which cannot be effectively prevented.

Slovenia expresses concerns over the adopted arrangements for Unaccompanied Minors and dependent persons in the procedure. Despite being fully aware of special needs and vulnerable situation of these persons, we fear that the obligation to establish and consequently bring together the persons concerned with family members and relations to such an extended scope will prove to be very difficult in practice, and will present a significant administrative burden especially to relevant authorities of smaller Member States as well as prolong the situation of uncertainty for the asylum seekers concerned.

Finally, Slovenia would like to emphasize once again its hesitation towards the placement of the Early Warning System in the framework of this Regulation since it is not primarily connected to the Dublin procedure.