**Council of the
European Union**

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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee/Council
No. prev. doc.:	13425/15 JAI 788 ASIM 126 RELEX 850
Subject:	Set-up of the Council preparatory bodies in JHA area (follow-up to Trio proposals on the organisation of the Council preparatory bodies)

1. On 5 December 2014, the JHA Council invited Coreper to review the mandates and working methods of the Council preparatory bodies in order to better coordinate the work of home affairs and foreign relations working parties, taking into account the outcome of the discussion held by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Ministers of Interior in Rome on 27 November 2014 (doc. 16516/14). At Coreper, on 10 December 2014, the Trio of Presidencies informed on how they would take the matter forward.

2. Coreper, at its meeting on 4-5 March 2015, took note of the information provided by the Trio of Presidencies (IT, LV, LU) in doc. 6589/15, explaining how the trio intended to organise the work of SCIFA and HLWG, and that this work would be evaluated and, if necessary, reviewed by the Luxembourg Presidency in autumn 2015.

3.	Accordingly, the Latvian Presidency organised one joint meeting and one back to back meeting of SCIFA and HLWG; while the Luxembourg Presidency organised one joint meeting of SCIFA and HLWG and one joint meeting of SCIFA and COSI. Steps have also been taken to ensure the coordination of agendas and discussions in different Council preparatory bodies.

4.	Moreover, following the examination of this issue at the HLWG meeting, on 1 July 2015, the informal SCIFA meeting, on 23-24 July 2015, and the joint HLWG/SCIFA meeting, on 14-15 September 2015, the Presidency prepared a paper on the strategic coordination of the work of the Council preparatory bodies in the area of migration (doc. 12516/15), which was endorsed by the JHA Council on 8-9 October 2015. Accordingly, the incoming Trio of Presidencies (NL, MT, SK) is expected to present shortly a strategic coordination paper for the work of Council preparatory bodies in the area of asylum, frontiers and migration.

5.	This approach proved largely beneficial for the improved coordination of the work of these Council preparatory bodies and was highly appreciated by delegations. It has proved particularly helpful to deal with the significant and increased work-load for the preparatory bodies in the area of asylum, frontiers and migration.

6.	Therefore, after due consideration, the Presidency, in consultation with the incoming Trio of Presidencies, proposed the following (doc. 13425/15):

	(1)	to organise the work of SCIFA and HLWG as follows:

		–	meetings of SCIFA and HLWG will be held back-to-back, whenever possible;

		–	depending on the subject matters under consideration in the two fora, one joint meeting of SCIFA and HLWG should, as a rule, be held during each Presidency;

		–	agendas of SCIFA and HLWG will be coordinated;

– presidency representatives of SCIFA will attend the meetings of the HLWG and vice versa;

– discussions in SCIFA and HLWG will be organized with a view to implementing the common strategic priorities identified in the paper to be presented by the incoming Trio of Presidencies.

(2) to confirm that the current set-up and mandates of the Council preparatory bodies in the area of migration remain unchanged.

(3) to invite the incoming Trio(s) of Presidencies to report on the lessons-learned and the necessary revision of practices, as appropriate.

7. This approach was discussed and endorsed by delegations at the SCIFA meeting on 3 November 2015 and the HLWG meeting of 10 December 2015.

8. On this basis, Coreper/Council is invited:

- to confirm the proposed modalities for the set-up of the Council preparatory bodies in the area of migration, as set out above;

- to invite the incoming Trio of Presidencies (NL, SK, MT) to report on the lessons-learned and the necessary revision of practices, as appropriate.

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