



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

JUSTICE & HOME AFFAIRS (Migration Supplement)

Sectoral Committee

Weekly Update
22.01.10

The Presidency seeks to regulate illegal immigration and integration policies

eu 2010.es



At a press conference following the Informal Meeting of Ministers for Justice and Home Affairs, the Spanish Secretary of State Consuelo Rumí and Commission Vice-president Jacques Barrot reported that the EU leaders set the bases for a European Immigration and Asylum Agreement.

This agreement would set out the new challenges and instruments for a "balanced, open, generous and firm" community policy helping to integrate legal immigrants and strengthen border controls to curb illegal migration.

The Spanish Secretary of State emphasised the importance of taking advantage of the opportunities the Lisbon Treaty affords for moving forward in this area and defining the priorities and mechanisms for implementing the Stockholm Agreement.

The Secretary of State also referred to the importance the Spanish Presidency wishes to place on integration of immigrants, as well as the need to provide more support to immigrants residing legally in the EU that have suffered from the economic crisis.

During the meeting, the Spanish Presidency emphasised its desire to bring about the approval of an action plan for unaccompanied immigrant minors. Such a plan would define the policies for prevention and protection, as well as the safe return of these minors to their countries of origin.

The Secretary of State advocated the need to share the costs of aiding unaccompanied minors arriving illegally in Europe. Mr Barrot seconded this message, affirming that "The Commission will lend financial support to the action plan for unaccompanied minors."

Mr Barrot also mentioned the need to define and promote co-operation policies with the countries of origin or transit of illegal immigration, and the opportunity to revise Frontex's regulations, bringing the agency into line with the new needs and providing it with the resources it requires to accomplish its important task.