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Committee on Foreign Affairs

2007/0142(CNS)

4.10.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

for the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

on the proposal for a Council decision concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Community and Bosnia and Herzegovina on readmission
(COM(2007)0425 – C6-0299/2007 – 2007/0142(CNS))

Draftsperson: Doris Pack

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SHORT JUSTIFICATION

The Committee on Foreign Affairs welcomes the conclusion of the agreement on readmission between the European Community and Bosnia and Herzegovina, which has been negotiated in parallel to the visa facilitation agreement.

The agreement enables both partners to strengthen cooperation in the field of migration management, and particularly in the fight against illegal immigration, creating legally binding rules in the readmission procedures.

The agreement will have wide-ranging implications for border management in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In order to meet fully the obligations arising from it, the country will have to boost considerably its capacities in the area of border control, border administration and border policing. It is of the utmost importance to ensure that the readmission procedures fully respect the rights and duties arising from international law in the field of human rights and the protection of asylum seekers and refugees.

The efforts to comply with the obligations will put a strain on the country's financial and human resources. For that reason, additional funds from the Pre-Accession Instrument should be provided in order to facilitate this process as much as possible, in the form of both financial support and technical assistance and transfer of know-how. This should be supplemented by Member States' activities, particularly the activities of member States bordering on the region. EU Member States could assist by sharing their expertise in the area of border control and migration management. After all, it is in the interests of the European Union to support full and speedy implementation of the agreement.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs calls on the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, as the committee responsible, to propose approval of the Commission proposal.

PROCEDURE

Title	Agreement between the EC and Bosnia and Herzegovina on readmission
References	COM(2007)0425 - C6-0299/2007 - 2007/0142(CNS)
Committee responsible	LIBE
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	AFET 24.9.2007
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Doris Pack 12.9.2007
Discussed in committee	3.10.2007
Date adopted	3.10.2007
Result of final vote	+: 19 -: 4 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Vittorio Agnoletto, Christopher Beazley, Monika Beňová, Michael Gahler, Jas Gawronski, Alfred Gomolka, Richard Howitt, Anna Ibrisagic, Vytautas Landsbergis, Willy Meyer Pleite, Samuli Pohjamo, Libor Rouček, Katrin Saks, Jacek Saryusz-Wolski, Gitte Seeberg, Ari Vatanen, Josef Zieleniec
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Árpád Duka-Zólyomi, Gisela Kallenbach, Erik Meijer, Rihards Pīks, Csaba Sándor Tabajdi, Marcello Vernola