Immigration, role of Frontex and cooperation between the Member States

2009/2673(RSP) - 21/09/2009

After a presentation by the Commission, ministers **exchanged views** on the actions taken in the area of illegal immigration since the European Council adopted its conclusions on 18/19 June 2009 (document *11225/09*).

The European Council conclusions identified a number of concrete measures on which the Council and the Commission were asked to take work forward. These include:

- the development of a pilot project providing for the voluntary reallocation of beneficiaries of international protection present in Malta,
- the rapid establishment of the European Asylum Support Office,
- the intensification of work with countries of origin and transit with respect to illegal immigrants.

Regarding Frontex, the Council discussed possible next steps on how to reinforce Frontex actions, **especially in regard to the Mediterranean**.

Among the possible measures discussed were:

- Frontex partnerships with third countries of transit and of origin based on reciprocal requirements and operational support,
- tighter checks at the external maritime borders,
- systematic involvement of Frontex in joint return flights,
- the establishment of regional specialized Frontex offices.