

**ENLARGEMENT - OVERALL STRATEGY AND COUNTRY REPORTS**

Ministers, over lunch, took note of the presentation by the Commission of a communication on the European Union's enlargement strategy and main challenges for 2006 and 2007, including a special report on the EU's capacity to integrate new members, as well as progress reports on candidate countries Turkey and Croatia and the other Western Balkans. They held an exchange of views.

The Commission's communication will be used as input for debate on the EU's enlargement strategy at the European Council's meeting on 14 and 15 December, as well as for work on draft European Council conclusions.

A number of delegations highlighted the need for thorough preparation by the permanent representatives committee and the Council ahead of the European Council's meeting.

**GENERAL AFFAIRS**

**Proceedings in the Council's different configurations**

The Council took note of a presidency report on proceedings in the Council's different configurations (14775/06).

**JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS**

**Western Balkans - Visa facilitation and readmission agreements**

The Council adopted decisions authorising the Commission to open negotiations for the conclusion of:

- agreements on the facilitation of issuance of short-stay visas with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- readmission agreements with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (*see also Council conclusions on the Western Balkans in the "External relations" press release 14781/06*).

**Agreement with Norway - European Monitoring Centre for Drugs**

The Council adopted a decision on the conclusion of an agreement with Norway on the revision of the amount of the financial contribution from Norway to the work of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) (7815/06).