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### **Eurodac implementing rules**

The Council noted that agreement has been reached on the content of the Eurodac implementing rules, subject to any necessary adaptations being made to take account of the Eurodac Regulation for which the Commission adopted a proposal on 26 May 1999.

It is noted that Eurodac will provide a system for the comparison of fingerprints of applicants for asylum as well as those of "illegal immigrants", to be set up within the Commission (see page 7).

The implementing rules stipulate the technical methodology for the taking, transmission and communication of these fingerprints to the Central Unit, and the means of carrying out comparisons and the transmission of results to the Member State in question. The text further sets out the rules regarding statistical collection, to be conducted by the Central Unit.

### **Comprehensive Action Plan on drugs between the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean**

The Council agreed to the text of the Action Plan on drugs between the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean, in view of its endorsement at the EU/Latin America Summit on 28/29 June 1999 in Rio de Janeiro.

This text was discussed between the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean partners at the high level meeting of the coordination/cooperation mechanism on drugs on 8/9 April 1999 in Panama. It is recalled that this mechanism was set up following the conclusions of the 1995 European Council in Madrid.

The Action Plan stems from the efforts being made in both regions to address the world's drug problem, and the need to coordinate, improve and enhance the coherence of their strategies and actions with regard to drugs. It is based on the following principles:

- shared responsibility;
- an integrated and balanced approach based on participation;
- sustainable development;
- conformity with international law, and particularly with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-intervention in internal affairs of States, and all human rights and freedoms.

The Plan will have the following overall objectives:

- coordination and cooperation in the area of drugs shall be based on the development in the regions of policies and institution building at the national level which will enable States to improve their ability to cope with the world drug problem;
- the Action Plan aims to improve, via jointly agreed programs and measures, information systems on the aforementioned problem between the regions;