

## CONFERENCE PREPARATION GAINS MOMENTUM „ALLIANCE“ DELEGATION MEETS FRATTINI, MDEPs



On the 14th of February, a delegation from the transnational cooperation network “The Alliance”, led by Frans Bastiaens from the Netherlands and Dr. Hermann Schoenmeier from Germany, has visited the European Parliament and the European Commission in Strasbourg. The intention of the visit was to strengthen already established ties with parliamentarians and to continue the planning process for the proposed conference in September 2007 in Brussels. Highlight of the day was a meeting with the Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs and Vice-President of the European Commission, Franco Frattini.

During a meeting with the host of the planned conference, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert (MdeP-ALDE), details of the planning process were discussed in length and many questions in regard to organisational issues and attracting the desired audience were discussed. The meeting concluded with procedural arrangements covering the whole planning process and the commitment for additional meetings towards the conference in the not too far future.



In subsequent meetings with the assistant of Barbara Kudrycka (MdeP-PPE) and Ms. Cristina Castagnoli, administrator in the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, several issues about the state of discussion of migration matters within European Institutions were raised and the plans of the “Alliance” in regard to the conference presented. The meeting was closed with the expressed desire of the delegation that Professor Barbara Kudrycka might continue to support the further planning of the conference.



After a preparatory meeting with Maria Martens (MdeP-PPE), the delegation met the Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs and Vice-President of the European Commission, Franco Frattini. Accompanied by two of his staff, he exchanged views in regard to the EU-programmes geared toward the target groups of refugees and migrants. In the following discussion, Mr. Frattini expressed his interest in staying in contact and learning from the experiences from the projects represented by the “Alliance”. In addition, he advised the delegation to seek contact with his colleague, the Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal

Opportunities, Vladimir Spidla. The possible participation of Mr. Frattini within the conference as a speaker was discussed as well.

As previous visits to EU-institutions, the visit to Strasbourg in the view of the delegation has increased the momentum of conference planning. Based on the positive reaction shown by all officials met, the delegation came to the conclusion that the preparations for the conference are on the right track.