

**QUESTION TO BE ASKED OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 16th MARCH 2004, BY SENATOR P.V.F LE CLAIRE**

**Question 1**

Would the President –

- (a) inform members of the progress on developing the Migration Policy?
- (b) inform members who is now responsible for this work for the Committee?
- (c) give details of the proposals being developed at present?
- (d) inform members when the Committee will be briefing States members and the public on this matter?

**Answer**

- (a) Following the States debate on P.102/2003, as amended, on 7th October 2003, the Policy and Resources Committee established a Steering Group in order to develop proposals for a draft migration policy. The membership of the Group is drawn from a range of States' Committees, and the members are: Senator L. Norman, Senator M.E. Vibert, the Deputy of Trinity, the Deputy of St. Ouen, Deputy G.P. Southern, Deputy P.N. Troy, Deputy J.B. Fox, Deputy M.A. Taylor and, until recently, Deputy S.C. Ferguson who has now been replaced by Senator P.F. Routier.

The Steering Group is supported by an officer Working Group, chaired by Mr. Bill Ogley and consisting of senior officers representing the following States departments: Housing, Economic Development, Home Affairs, Policy and Resources, Employment and Social Security, and Education, Sport and Culture.

The Steering Group has been making good progress in developing outline proposals for a draft migration policy, within the terms set out in P.102/2003, as amended, and will shortly be reporting back to the Policy and Resources Committee.

- (b) The Steering Group is chaired by Senator P.F.C. Ozouf and, although he is no longer a member of the Policy and Resources Committee, I am pleased to say that he has agreed to continue to chair this important group.
- (c) The proposals being developed are innovative and could have far-reaching implications for the way we manage migration. They focus on developing a comprehensive population database, establishing a more integrated approach which brings together the current systems of housing and employment controls, and reducing bureaucracy for businesses and individuals living in Jersey.
- (d) The Working Group has prepared a draft report, which is to be considered by the Committee on 8th April 2004, and will be submitted to the States before the end of April. The purpose of the report, to be published as an 'R.C.' rather than as a proposition, will be to outline the principles of a migration policy and to enable a wider discussion on the approach being considered.

Given the important and wide-ranging implications of a migration policy, there is still a considerable amount of work to complete before a final report and proposition can be lodged, hopefully within the next few months.

**Question 2**

Would the President inform the Assembly what timetable is being proposed for the Migration Policy and how will this affect the Island's position with people currently in Jersey once 1st May 2004 deadline has passed?

**Answer**

In view of the answer I have given previously, it would be unreasonable for anyone to expect a new migration policy to be brought into effect before 1st May 2004.

But the date of 1st May is not a 'deadline' in any way. On that day, nationals of the ten new Member States of the European Union will be entitled to enter the Island without work permits, but they will still be subject to the same migration controls that apply to all E.U. nationals in the Island, i.e. the Housing Regulations and Regulation of Undertakings and Developments Law, together with the residence criteria for entitlement to Social Security Benefits. In this regard, nothing will change.

**Question 3**

Would the President inform members how changes to the Treaty of Rome that have been made, or are planned to be made, will affect the Island?

**Answer**

The expression 'Treaty of Rome' refers to the United Kingdom's Act of Accession to the Common Market, as it was in 1972. As members are aware, the proposed new European Constitution would consolidate the existing Accession Treaties into one document, and also remove any obsolete or transitional provisions in the original Treaties.

In negotiating the proposed changes to Protocol 3, which defines the relationship of the Channel Islands and Isle of Man with the European Union, the primary objective was to ensure our existing relationship was preserved unchanged. I have already informed members of the successful outcome of our negotiations, and I have every expectation that if the new Constitution is agreed by the EU member states, Jersey's position will be preserved and fully protected by European law.