

Europe looks to fight illegal immigration

by UPI

BRUSSELS - The European Union would build a force of quick-response border guard teams to react to immigration emergencies under a deal reached in Brussels.

"It is the best ever example of European solidarity," EU Home Affairs Commissioner Franco Frattini said after a deal was reached on the border guard teams, the EU Observer reported.

The border teams would be available to any member state with borders under "urgent and exceptional" strain by illegal immigration, the EU Observer reported. The newspaper said one goal of the program is to battle the illegal immigration of Africans trying to get to Europe, especially Spain, by boat.

EU interior ministers and the European Parliament's committee on civil liberties, justice and home affairs have agreed to the plan. The full parliament is expected to approve it this week in Strasbourg, France.

The international pool would be operated by EU's external borders agency, Frontex, the EU Observer reported.

Copyright © 2007, by United Press International. All Rights Reserved.

Europe looks to fight illegal immigration by UPI