

Questions and Answers

Immigration Program

1. What is the effective date of the transfer of the immigration program from EAITC to EIC?

The effective date is April 1, 1992. On that date EIC takes over responsibility and accountability for the immigration program and employees dedicated to that program become employees of EIC. From a practical point of view, however, it will be business as usual until the actual physical move of the immigration program takes place this summer from EAITC to EIC headquarters. Until that happens, immigration officers abroad will continue to report to their immigration counterparts at EAITC and program divisions at EAITC will report to their respective ADMs. OFB will report to EIC.

2. Is there not a double standard here? In 1991 when the decision was taken to disband the FS aid stream, officers were given the choice to remain at EAITC or to transfer to CIDA. Why is that same choice not available to members of the FS social affairs stream?

Unlike the case of the FS aid stream, the FS social affairs stream is **not** being disbanded. All FS social affairs officers (FS1D to EXFS2) will be offered positions by EIC at their same FS group and level. They will maintain their present terms and conditions of employment and they will not suffer any financial loss. The FS social affairs stream will continue to be a viable entity. The only substantive change is that EIC will be fully accountable and responsible for the immigration program.

3. Is this "no choice" avenue being driven by the inability of EAITC to absorb all or part of the social affairs stream elsewhere in the Department?

There is no question that the sheer size of the FS social affairs stream would make it impossible for EAITC to absorb it in other programs. The decision, however, to continue to maintain the FS social affairs stream under EIC management was taken specifically to ensure that the immigration program would continue to be delivered by the recognized and trained experts.

4. How can we be assured that the FS social affairs stream will remain a viable entity at EIC?

EIC is committed to annual recruitment of FS social affairs officers and the annual promotion-to-level procedures in place at