

New Perspectives on the Common European Asylum System: Ensuring Better Integration of Asylum Seekers in the EU

Integrating the European Knowledge



Wednesday 13th February 2013

The Silken Berlaymont Hotel
Brussels

"An International Symposium for gathering knowledge, discussing the latest challenges and sharing best practices in migration and asylum policy in Europe"



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Overview

Asylum is granted to people fleeing persecution or serious harm in their own country and are in need of international protection. Granting asylum is an international obligation, first recognised in the 1951 Geneva Convention on the Protection of Refugees.

The **Common European Asylum System** (CEAS), which was reinforced by The Hague Programme (November 2004) and The Stockholm Programme (2009), aims to harmonise asylum procedures in the European Union, increase cooperation between EU states on managing their external borders and develop high standards of protection for asylum seekers. The number of asylum seekers in the EU-27 during 2011 reached just over 300,000, with the highest number being reported in France and Germany and as such, there is an urgent need to raise awareness.

The EU shares responsibility for managing refugees with non-EU countries and countries of first asylum. With the goal of improving the management of refugee flows and enhancing protection capacities in the regions from which many refugees originate, the EU is thus stepping up its collaboration with non-EU countries. To make this cooperation robust, the Commission undertook to develop the **EU Regional Protection Programmes and Resettlement Schemes**.

In 2009, the EU proposed to set up a **European Asylum Support Office** to regulate asylum applications as part of a drive to increase cooperation between EU States, and develop methodologies and tools for collection and analysis of the data on the implementation of EU asylum law in Member States. This is essential for policy and law makers to improve the quality and effectiveness of the CEAS.

This timely International Symposium will examine the current situation facing those who need asylum/protection and will assess the ongoing challenges that Europe is facing to increase the practical cooperation between member states, especially in relation to the collection of measurable data on asylum seekers. The Symposium offers a vital platform to incorporate gender considerations of vulnerable groups into the dialogue, as well as explore how policymakers can strike the balance vis-à-vis the challenges and tensions between protecting human rights and ensuring that immigration controls are not undermined.

The Symposium will support the exchange of ideas and encourage delegates to engage in thought-provoking topical debate with local and regional practitioners and policymakers at EU level.

“ The standards for receiving asylum seekers vary considerably between EU countries today. There are countries that handle their commitments well. There are countries where the reception needs to improve. But there are also countries where the reception of refugees is far from the European values - where we see an unworthy treatment of people in need of protection. Therefore, common rules and standards for the reception conditions as extremely important. It should not matter which country you flee to, an applicant should know that his or her application is processed correctly and legally secure everywhere. If all member countries have a functional reception, we can help more people in need of asylum.”

- Cecilia Malmström, Commissioner for Home Affairs, September 2012

Venue and Accommodation

**The Silken Berlaymont Hotel,
11-19, Boulevard Charlemagne
1000 Brussels - Belgium**

Through our partnership with the Silken Berlaymont Hotel we are pleased to be able to offer our delegates specially negotiated accommodation rates. These discounted room rates are subject to availability and are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.



Why Attend?

- ✓ **Discuss new methods and tools for gathering comparative data on asylum seekers in Europe**
- ✓ **Understand current standards, procedures and decision making processes in identifying and assisting asylum seekers**
- ✓ **Explore possibilities for increasing cooperation between Member States and major stakeholders in improving reallocation and resettlement policies in Europe**
- ✓ **Exchange best practices from pivotal projects implemented in Europe**

Who Should Attend?

- National Governmental Organisations
- Immigration Advisers
- Legal Advisers
- Local and Regional Government Departments and Bodies
- Regulatory Bodies
- Citizens Advice and Third Sector Practitioners
- Anti-Trafficking Practitioners
- Vulnerable Persons Coordinators
- Missing Persons Units
- Border Control Officials
- Port and Airport Authorities
- Asylum and Refugee Groups
- Health Treatment and Advisory Services
- Social Workers and Social Services Officers
- Social Inclusion Officers
- Public Health Authorities
- Asylum Team Managers
- Refugee and Asylum Support Officers
- Sheltered Housing Scheme Managers
- Local, Regional and National Health Services
- Social Care Professionals
- Private Sectors Employers
- Public Sector Employers
- Homelessness Assessment and Prevention Officers
- Housing Associations
- Employee Relations Advisers
- Legal Advisers Community Cohesion Officers
- Community Engagement Officers
- Community Relations Advisers
- Overseas Student Recruitment Officers
- Asylum and Immigration Tribunals
- Funding Councils
- Research Councils
- Campaigning Organisations
- International Organisations
- Academics

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Programme

- 09:15** Registration and Morning Refreshments
- 10:00** Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks
Dr. Dirk Vanheule, Professor, Migration Law, University of Antwerp (confirmed)
- 10:10** **Current Status of the Common European Asylum System - Lessons Learned and New Challenges Ahead**
- Investing in Stakeholders' Capacities - Developing Efficient Decision-Making Models
 - Solidarity Mechanisms Between Member States and With Other Stakeholders - Strengthening Technical/Financial Cooperation and Management Control
 - The Dublin Regulation- An Impediment to Effective Protection of Asylum Seekers' Rights?
 - Recommendations for Future Policy Initiatives
- 10:45** **First Round of Discussions**
- 11:15** Morning Coffee Break
- 11:30** **Relocation and Resettlement of Asylum Seekers in Europe**
- Organised Exchange of Information and Best Practices – Examining the Success of the Pilot Project on Resettlement
 - Intra-EU Relocation - A Complement to, Rather Than a Substitute For, Resettlement
 - Understanding the Concept of 'Asylum Shopping'
 - Conclusion and Recommendations
- 12:00** **Second Round of Discussions**
- 12:30** Networking Lunch
- 13:30** **Assessing the Quality of Europe's Border Management**
- Frontex-Europol-Eurojust Inter-Operability and Cooperation Between Border-Judicial Authorities' - Is the EU Meeting the Objectives Set With the Internal Security Strategy?
 - Efficiency of Frontex Air, Land and Sea Operations and Their Impact on Migrants' Human Rights
 - Conclusion and Recommendations
- 14:15** **Third Round of Discussions**
- 14:45** Afternoon Coffee Break
- 15:00** **Influence of European Asylum Policy on International Refugee Protection**
- Inter-Agency and Inter-Institutional Cooperation
 - Regional Protection Programmes - Consolidating Protection Capacities in the Regions of Origin
 - Third-Country Support for Better Migration Flow Management
 - Past and Ongoing Initiatives - Lessons Learned and Recommendations
- 15:30** **Fourth Round of Discussions**
- 16:00** Chairman's Summary and Closing Comments
- 16:10** Networking Reception
- 16:40** Close

Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice

Event Details

- Date:** Wednesday 13th February 2013
Time: 10:00am – 4:40pm
Venue: The Silken Berlaymont Hotel, Brussels



Speakers include

- ✓ **Christos Giakoumopoulos**, Director, Human Rights Directorate, Council of Europe (confirmed)
- ✓ **Kris Pollet**, Senior Legal & Policy Officer, European Council of Refugees and Exiles (confirmed)
- ✓ **Dr Robert Visser**, Executive Director, European Asylum Support Office (confirmed)
- ✓ **David Reizenzein**, External Relations Officer, Frontex (confirmed)
- ✓ **Anne Dussart**, Department Asylum and Migration: Head of the Social Programs, Caritas International Belgium (confirmed)
- ✓ **Aspasia Papadopoulou**, Senior Advocacy Officer, European Council on Refugees and Exiles (confirmed)

“ **Europe cannot survive without migration. Migration is an absolutely essential component of Europe's capacity to survive...We have no choice. Europe will be, inevitably, a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural society. There is no way to avoid it ... And it's better to manage immigration than to pretend we can avoid it.** ”

- António Guterres, High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations, April 2012

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