

## The use of safe country concepts in the jurisprudence of European and national courts and tribunals

### WHAT ARE THE EUAA EXPERT PANELS?



The EUAA Expert Panels are aimed at members of courts and tribunals who wish to deepen their expert knowledge in specific areas of the CEAS covered by the [EUAA judicial publications](#). The panels facilitate the exchange of views, interpretations, recent national case law, best practices on challenging topics and recent developments in the case law of the CJEU and ECtHR.

### WHAT IS THE FORMAT?



- Webinar lasting 2 hours.
- Participants ask their questions to the panel when registering.
- Background note with applicable legal framework and *indicative* list of relevant case law available upon registration.

### WHO CAN JOIN?

Members of courts and tribunals from EU Member States and Associated Countries



#### WHEN?

**28 June 2023**  
**(14:00 – 16:00 CET)**

### WHAT IS THIS SESSION ABOUT?

- Understanding the concepts of safe country of origin and safe third country and their impact on the merits and the admissibility of applications for international protection.
- Rebutting the presumption of safety in individual cases.
- Procedural guarantees for applicants coming from presumed safe countries / for whom protection is presumed to exist in a third country.
- The case-law of the two European courts and national courts and tribunals.

### RELEVANT MATERIAL

- EUAA (2023), [Judicial Analysis on Evidence and credibility assessment in the context of the Common European Asylum System](#)
- EUAA (2022), [Applying the Concept of Safe Countries in the Asylum Procedure](#)
- EUAA (2021), [The concept of safe third countries applied in EU+ countries Situational Update - Issue No 5](#)
- EUAA (2018), [Judicial Analysis on Asylum Procedures and the principle of non- refoulement](#)

## THE PANEL EXPERTS



### **Dóra Virág Dudás**

#### **Administrative Judge, President of Chamber, Budapest Regional Court, Hungary**

Dóra Virág Dudás comes from Budapest, Hungary. She joined the Budapest Regional Court in March 1997 and is currently covering the role of Administrative Judge, President of Chamber, Head of Section, and Judicial Trainer in European law. In these positions she deals with various fields of public administrative law with primary focus on migration, presides over judicial review proceedings, coordinates the job of administrative judges and court staff, and provides jurisdictional and judgeship training. Her special expertise is asylum law, in which she lectures both at national and international level. She obtained a PhD in human rights law from the ELTE University in Budapest in 2014. She was previously seconded for one year with the Registry at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, where she drafted legal decisions. Another ten months of judicial internship were spent at the Court of the European Union in Luxembourg. She also has a work experience as a lecturer in undergraduate studies, with focus on international law. She has been participating in the activities of the IARMJ and the AEAJ, she has published a comprehensive human rights handbook, and since 2022 she is member of the EUAA Judicial Experts' Pool.

### **Stergios Kofinis**

#### **Judge, Administrative Court of First Instance of Thessaloniki, Greece**

Stergios Kofinis comes from Larisa, Greece. He became an administrative judge in 2013 and since then he has been serving at the Administrative Court of First Instance of Thessaloniki. He is currently appointed at the 2nd Chamber of the Court, which hears asylum and immigration cases. He obtained a PhD in Constitutional Law from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in 2016. His thesis was on equality and non-discrimination. He has published and edited papers and books and given talks on topics related to equality and non-discrimination, asylum law, immigration law, artificial intelligence and constitutional rights. He was a member of the Independent Appeals Committees of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum for two years (2019-2020). He is teaching at the National School of Judiciary since 2019 and is a regular speaker in EJTN seminars since 2021. He has been a member of the EUAA Judicial Experts' Pool since 2020 and a member of CEPEJ's Working Group on Quality of Justice (GT-QUAL) since 2022.



### **Hilkka Becker**

#### **Chairperson of the International Protection Appeals Tribunal, Ireland**

Hilkka Becker is the Chairperson of the International Protection Appeals Tribunal (Ireland) since April 2017. She was previously Deputy Chairperson of the Tribunal and served as a part-time Member of the Tribunal's predecessor, the Refugee Appeals Tribunal, from 2013 to 2016. Hilkka is Co-Rapporteur of the IARMJ working group on 'Membership of a Particular Social Group' and Chairs the Council of the IARMJ Europe Chapter. She has over 25 years professional experience specialising in asylum, migration, and human rights law. She studied law in Hamburg (Germany) and first registered to practice in Germany in 1998 and, after moving to Ireland later that same year, was admitted to the roll of solicitors in Ireland in 2003. Hilkka was senior solicitor at the Immigrant Council of Ireland for over 10 years. She is a former Regional Legal Advisor with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Vienna, she worked as an international legal consultant, as a solicitor in private practice and was a legal officer with the Irish Refugee Council.



[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST](#)

In order to apply, interested candidates should demonstrate that they are a serving member of a court or tribunal and/or a current judicial trainer, working in the field of international protection. Candidates are required to register by **18 June 2023** and submit their question(s) to the panel of experts upon registration.