



Input by civil society to the EASO Annual Report 2016

EASO has started production of the Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the European Union 2016, in line with Article 12 (1) of the EASO Regulation. The report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of important asylum-related developments at EU and national level, and the functioning of all key aspects of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). The report will be finalised by collecting information from EU+ countries, civil-society stakeholders, UNHCR and other relevant sources on main developments in asylum policies and practices of EU+ countries in 2016.

Previous reports can be consulted on EASO's website: <https://www.easo.europa.eu/information-analysis/annual-report>

We would kindly like to ask you to provide your **observations**, - preferably bullet points to facilitate further processing of your input - **on developments in asylum law or practice in 2016 (and early 2017) in the areas listed below, reflecting the usual structure of the report**. Observations may concern national practices of specific EU+ countries or the EU as a whole.

The EASO Annual Report will not describe the national asylum systems in detail but present key developments in 2016, including **improvements and new/remaining concerns**. The topics listed below reflect the structure of chapter 4 of the EASO report on the 'Functioning of the CEAS'. We kindly ask all contributors to provide brief summaries only on those topics/issues that have seen important **improvements/deterioration as well as new concerns or where previous relevant concerns remained in 2016**.

Please bear in mind that the EASO Annual Report is a public document. Therefore, your input should be, whenever possible, supported with references to written sources to ensure transparency. That can be done by providing links to any documents such as position papers, important press releases, studies, comments, input to the other reports, public statements to government programs, etc.

While EASO endeavours to cover all relevant developments and strives to include as many references as possible, the final content of the EASO Annual Report remains bound by its terms of reference and volume. Therefore, while all contributions are gratefully received and recognised, EASO may edit contributions for length and clarity and use the submissions to best serve the objective of the Annual Report: to improve the quality, consistency and effectiveness of the CEAS.

Please provide your input by filling in this document (with attachments if required) and emailing it to ids@easo.europa.eu **AND** consultative-forum@easo.europa.eu **by 20 February 2017**.

Within the areas, please highlight the following **type of information**:

- NEW positive developments; improvements and NEW or remaining matters of concern;
- Changes in policies or practices; transposition of legislation; institutional changes; relevant national jurisprudence.
- Please use the topics listed below as a guide to providing input for each section. **DO NOT** provide information unrelated to relevant new developments.

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1) Access to territory and procedure

2) Access to information and legal assistance

3) Providing interpretation services

4) Dublin procedure

5) Specific procedures (border, accelerated, admissibility)

From 12 May 2016, any migrant that has made a human rights or asylum claim can now be removed to their home country pending the outcome of their appeal against the decision to remove them, unless such removal would cause them 'serious, irreversible harm'. (Immigration Act 2016 - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/19/section/63?view=interweave>)

6) Reception of applicant for international protection:

7) Detention:

From 12 May 2016, pregnant women can now only be detained by immigration authorities for up to 72 hours (or one week with special permission). (Immigration Act 2016 - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/19/section/60/enacted>).

8) Procedures at First instance:

9) Procedures at Second Instance:

10) Availability and use of Country of Origin Information:

11) Vulnerable applicants:

12) Content of protection – situation of beneficiaries of protection

13) Return of former applicants for international protection

14) Resettlement and relocation

The Community Sponsorship of Refugees scheme was announced on 19th July 2016, which allows groups to privately raise funds to support a refugee family. Successful applicants receive a family identified by the Government from the refugee camps around Syria. The first two families arrived in November 2016. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/community-sponsorship-scheme-launched-for-refugees-in-the-uk>

The Government has pledged to resettle 20,000 Syrians from the region around Syria by 2020. As of January 2017, 4,400 had been resettled in the UK.

The Government has pledged to resettle 3,000 vulnerable children currently in the Middle East and North Africa.

The Government has announced it will resettle 350 vulnerable children from France, Greece and Italy under the Dubs scheme (Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/19/section/67/enacted>).

http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2017-02-08/HCWS467?utm_campaign=new_discussion&utm_medium=email&utm_source=thread_mailer

15) Other relevant developments

From 12 May 2016, it has been a criminal offence for a landlord to knowingly rent premises to an illegal migrant (Immigration Act 2016 - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2016/19/section/39>). According to a report from the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI - <https://www.jcwi.org.uk/>), this measure has led to landlords discriminating against non-British people applying to rent property, highlighting that “the most vulnerable individuals, such as asylum seekers, stateless persons, and victims of modern day slavery, who would require landlords to do an online check to confirm they have been granted permission to rent, face the greatest barrier of all.”