



Press Release

07 September 2012

The European Asylum Support Office moves to new premises

Today, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) has moved into its new premises located in Valletta's Grand Harbour, Malta. The new premises were inaugurated by Hon Lawrence Gonzi, Prime Minister of Malta.

The Prime Minister of Malta, the Hon Lawrence Gonzi said that EASO's presence is a remarkable achievement in Malta's short history as a European Union Member State and it is a testimony to Malta's commitment, performance and reputation in the European Union. He added that EASO has an important role to play in the establishment of a Common European Asylum System, based on shared responsibilities. Dr Gonzi added that EASO's work is of direct relevance to Malta and renewed Malta's support as host country.

Commenting on the new premises Dr Visser, EASO Executive Director, thanked the Maltese Government, the European Commission, the European Parliament and Member States (which are represented in EASO's Management Board) for making this move possible. This move will provide the agency with: good working conditions for its staff; modern and future oriented equipment and facilities; and will ensure that EASO activities (such as conferences, training, meetings, etc) are hosted under the same roof.

The move to the new EASO premises follows the signing in June 2011 of a lease agreement between EASO, the Authority for Transport in Malta and the Government of Malta. This state-of-the-art building, which is part of a modern office complex in Valletta's Grand Harbour, was made available to EASO by the Maltese Government as part of its bid to host EASO in Malta. The visually striking complex is close to the Islands' administrative and commercial centre in Valletta. Malta's International Airport is also a short drive away from the new EASO premises.

The total office area is of approximately 3,700 square metres, distributed on four floors, which can house EASO's permanent staff and visiting officials. The building also features a number of conference and training rooms that are required to enable EASO to carry out its functions.

From now on EASO can be contacted at the following address:

European Asylum Support Office
MTC Block A, Winemakers Wharf,
Grand Harbour Valletta, MRS 1917, Malta
Tel: 00356 22487500

Any further information may be obtained from the European Asylum Support Office by contacting Mr Jean-Pierre Schembri on the following e-mail address: jean-pierre.schembri@ext.ec.europa.eu