



Press Release

PR 11/2013
4 November 2013

Ambassador Swing, DG IOM, visits EASO

Ambassador William Lacy Swing, Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has today visited EASO's Headquarters in Malta and held a meeting with the Executive Director of EASO, Dr Robert K. Visser. During the meeting the two discussed EASO's contribution to the Common European Asylum System and how EASO and IOM could further strengthen their cooperation in the near future.

IOM is a member of EASO's consultative forum.¹ IOM has recently cooperated with EASO in its support to Greece and has also participated in EASO expert meetings on relocation and resettlement. IOM has also contributed to the management of the EUREMA pilot project.

Ambassador Swing visited EASO while on an official visit to the Government of Malta. During the meeting with Ambassador Swing, EASO's Executive Director, Dr Visser, introduced EASO's tools and operational activities and explained that EASO adopts a bottom up, evidence based approach. During the meeting, the two highlighted the importance of tackling the root causes of the irregular immigration phenomena, in particular the importance of breaking the human trafficking and smuggling networks.

The strengthening of future cooperation between IOM and EASO was also discussed, in particular the possibility of cooperation with IOM on future relocation and resettlement activities, voluntary returns, unaccompanied minors, and also cooperate on EASO's actions related to the external dimension of the CEAS. EASO and IOM can also cooperate in cases of asylum emergencies.

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@easo.europa.eu

¹ The EASO Consultative Forum is an ongoing process that allows for the exchange of information and pooling of knowledge between EASO and the civil society.