



Press Release

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Commissioner Malmström visits EASO

Commissioner for Home Affairs, Cecilia Malmström visited the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) today to discuss EASO's achievements and the progress made by EASO in enhancing the implementation of the Common European Asylum System, as well as to discuss the latest asylum trends.

During the visit, the Commissioner met with EASO's Executive Director, Dr Robert K. Visser to discuss EASO's work and activities, including EASO's current operational support missions in Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece and Italy, the work conducted to establish common Country of Origin Information and EASO training activities (in 2013 EASO trained over 2,100 asylum and reception officers).

Additionally, the EASO Executive Director gave an update on the latest asylum trends in the European Union. In particular, it was noted that in July 2014 EU+ countries (EU Member States plus Norway and Switzerland) recorded the highest level of asylum applicants, since the beginning of EUROSTAT data collection in 2008. Syrians were the most numerous group of asylum applicants in July 2014. There have also been significant increases in the number of applications from Iraq, Ukraine, Somalia, Moldavia and the Western Balkans countries.

At the end of the visit, EASO's Executive Director held that he was honoured to welcome Commissioner Malmström at EASO and commended her continuous support and active involvement in EASO's work and activities. He was pleased to note that the Commissioner acknowledged that EASO was playing an important role in the implementation of the Common European Asylum System. By being active on the ground in a number of Member States, the agency has gained crucial experience that will benefit both the Member States and those persons seeking international protection.

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