

Press Release

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EASO and FRA sign working arrangement

The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) have today signed a working arrangement which, on the basis of the existing bilateral relations, identifies the relevant principles, areas and objectives for enhancing their cooperation. The working arrangement covers the fields of training, quality support, operational cooperation, research, information and analysis, as well as horizontal cooperation.

Dr Robert K. Visser, EASO Executive Director and Mr Morten Kjærum, FRA Director, have today signed a working arrangement which, on the basis of the existing bilateral relations, identifies the relevant principles, areas and objectives for enhancing their cooperation. The working arrangement between both EU agencies covers the fields of training, quality support, operational cooperation, research, information and analysis, as well as horizontal cooperation.

The purpose of the working arrangement is to establish a cooperation framework on relevant areas of common work and interest and to set objectives and principles of such cooperation. Amongst other things, the agreement stipulates that both EU agencies will share their draft work programmes and will consult each other on matters of common interest to be reflected therein.

Moreover, EASO and FRA agree to exchange best practices in a number of fields, such as: their consultation activities with civil society representatives; on quality initiatives and projects as well as on tools and indicators for the application of high standards across the EU in the field of fundamental rights and international protection; and protection of vulnerable groups.

'This working arrangement will enable EASO to strengthen its cooperation network and continue contributing to the implementation of the Common European Asylum System across the EU', said Dr Robert K Visser.

Morten Kjaerum, Director of FRA, said that 'This agreement consolidates the existing cooperation between FRA and EASO and will contribute to the promotion of fundamental rights throughout the EU'

The agreement can be accessed via the following link: <http://easo.europa.eu/wp-content/uploads/20130606-EASO-FRA-working-arrangement-FINAL.pdf>

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