



Press Release

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EASO-Swiss working arrangement enters into force, enabling Switzerland to further participate in the work of EASO and make use of its tools

The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) welcomes the ratification of the Agreement on the modalities of the participation of the Swiss Confederation in the work of EASO.

The entry into force of the Agreement marks a strengthened cooperation between EASO and the Swiss Confederation and will allow Switzerland to participate in EASO's work, receive support from EASO, and benefit from its valuable expertise on countries of origin information, training and other tools offered by EASO. Moreover, Swiss national experts may be engaged by EASO, and deployed in EASO operations, including those in the hotspots in Italy and Greece.

EASO Executive Director a.i., Mr Jose' Carreira said *"This is an important step which allows Switzerland to bring a more tangible contribution to our work. This is particularly relevant in view of the migration and refugee crisis we are dealing with today. The ratification of the agreement will bring new energy in the context of an already close cooperation between EASO and the Swiss Confederation"*

The working arrangement between the European Union and the Swiss Confederation on the modalities of its participation in EASO, was signed on 5 June 2014. The agreement is one of four working arrangements on the participation of the Associate Countries (Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Iceland) in the work of EASO. In March 2015, the Swiss Parliament approved the ratification of the working arrangement. The European Parliament did the same in December 2015.

Any further information on EASO may be obtained by contacting Mr Jean-Pierre Schembri on the following e-mail address: jean-pierre.schembri@easo.europa.eu

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