

Press Release

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European Parliament Delegation visits EASO

A delegation from the European Parliament's Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee (LIBE) is visiting EASO on 29/30 October 2013. The purpose of the visit is for MEPs to familiarise themselves with the work of EASO, provide updates on various topics, and to strengthen cooperation between EASO and the European Parliament.

A delegation from the European Parliament's Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee is visiting the EASO Headquarters in Malta, on 29/30 October 2013. The delegation is made up of members of the European Parliament, namely MEP Jan Mulder (NL), MEP Josef Weidenholzer (AT), and MEP Roberta Metsola (MT).

The delegation met this morning with EASO's Executive Director, Dr Robert K Visser, who presented EASO's role within the Common European Asylum System, in view of the recent adoption of the new asylum package. The EASO Executive Director also gave an update on the progress made with regard to the Early warning and Preparedness System (EPS). EASO is currently developing an Early warning and Preparedness System aimed at detecting situations likely to give rise to asylum pressures by providing asylum trend analysis and risk scenarios.

During their visit, MEPs will be introduced to EASO's training and quality tools, in particular the development of the EASO training modules in the context of the recast asylum package and on the e-learning platform. EASO's activities on unaccompanied minors (age-assessment and family tracing) will also be explained. On Country of Origin Information (COI)¹, MEPs will be presented with the development of the various EASO COI products (such as COI reports, factsheets, networks etc) and introduced to the EASO COI portal. Besides acting as an entry point to COI, legislation and case law, the COI Portal also allows for communication and exchange of information between users.

In addition, MEPs will be updated on EASO's operational activities on the ground to assist Member States subject to specific and/or emergency situations. Particular emphasis will be made on ongoing EASO support projects in Bulgaria, Greece and Italy.

Cooperation between various stakeholders, in particular, the strengthening of future cooperation between the European Parliament and EASO will also be discussed.

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 COI refers to information on countries from which asylum seekers originate. This sort of information is essential for asylum officials during the asylum determination process. In this field, EASO gathers targeted, relevant, reliable, accurate and up-to-date country of origin information in a transparent and impartial manner