



Press Release

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EASO's Management Board elects new Chair and new Executive Director

On 21th and 22nd January 2016, the EASO Management Board gathered in Malta to discuss EASO work in the framework of the EU Migration agenda and to elect a new Chairman of the Management Board and a new Executive Director. During the meeting, Mag Wolfgang Taucher (AT) was elected as the Chairman of the Management Board while José Carreira (PT) was elected as EASO Executive Director.

The Management Board is made up of representatives of EU Member States, the European Commission and UNHCR. Representatives of Associate Countries (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) were also invited to the meeting as observers.

During its 20th meeting, amongst other things, representatives discussed the current situation of asylum in the EU, EASO actions vis-a-vis the [European Agenda on Migration](#), EASO's role in the hotspots and the state of play of the EASO operations in Italy and Greece. The [2016 EASO Work Programme](#) was also presented.

The meeting opened with the election of the new Chair of the EASO Management Board: **Mag Wolfgang Taucher (Austria)**, who was confirmed for a second mandate. Mag Taucher has been an EASO Management Board member since May 2010 and he represents the Austrian Federal Office for asylum and immigration.

Furthermore, the Management Board elected a new Executive Director, **José Carreira (Portugal)**.

Mag Taucher, EASO Management Board Chairman stated that *'it is an important time for the agency and I will continue the work of the chair with great pleasure. We are encountering most challenging situations – on the national and European level – and I am ready to build upon the work done in the last years. EASO stands for the establishment of the Common European Asylum System – and we urgently need common measures in Europe and make the hotspots work'*.

Speaking after the meeting, the newly elected Executive Director, said *'I am very glad and honoured to have been elected as the new Executive Director of EASO. I am fully aware of the expectations on EASO, especially at this crucial time. I am committed to make EASO more operational and better equipped to face the challenges ahead. Together with all the team at EASO I intend to deliver on these expectations'*

The new Executive Director will now appear in front of the European Parliament, which will adopt an opinion on the selected candidate before his official appointment as Executive Director.

Further information:

[EASO website](#)

A list of the representatives to the EASO Management Board can be found [here](#).

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