



## Press Release

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# EASO Executive Director meets Dutch Minister for Immigration, Integration and Asylum to discuss the work of EASO and the situation of asylum in the European Union

*Dr Robert K. Visser, Executive Director of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) met Dr Gerd Leers, Dutch Minister for Immigration, Integration and Asylum Affairs to discuss the work of EASO and the situation of asylum in the EU. The meeting was held today at the Headquarters of the European Asylum Support Office, in Malta.*

Following the meeting Dr Visser commented that 'this was a very fruitful meeting which further strengthens the good cooperation between EASO and the Dutch Government. During the meeting we discussed the work of EASO and how EASO can be of service to the EU and its Member States. We also discussed current issues in the area of asylum including the development of the *Common European Asylum System*, which the European Union is committed to achieve by the end of this year, EASO's support to Greece where I reiterated EASO's appreciation of the Dutch Government contribution to this project, the development of an Early warning and Preparedness System on asylum aimed at providing asylum trend analysis and risk scenarios, and the current challenges faced by the EU in the area of asylum and immigration.'

Minister Leers held that he was 'very pleased with the contribution and the support of EASO to the member states. The Dutch government sees the positive effects of the work of EASO. EASO is essential in solving the challenges in for example Greece and especially in the implementation of the Greek Action Plan. The Dutch government supports a number of EASO's activities, for example Early Warning, and is looking forward to further progress in 2013.'

During his visit to the European Asylum Support Office, Minister Leers was accompanied by HE Ir. Robbert J. Gabriëlse, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Malta and Mr Rob van Lint, General Director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations.

*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@ext.ec.europa.eu](mailto:jean-pierre.schembri@ext.ec.europa.eu)*