



Press Release

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Harlem Désir, French Secretary of State for European Affairs visits EASO

Today, Hon. Harlem Désir, French Secretary of State for European Affairs visited the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) to discuss EASO's work vis-à-vis the development of the Common European Asylum System and its role in view of the [ten point action plan on migration](#) and the [statement of the European Council of 23 April 2015](#). Moreover, at EASO, Hon. Minister Harlem Désir attended a working lunch with a number of important stakeholders working in the area of asylum and migration.

During the visit, Hon. Minister Harlem Désir met with EASO's Executive Director, Dr Robert K. Visser. The two discussed the various tools and activities which EASO uses to implement its tasks. These include: training and common asylum training material (EASO has trained over 7,000 asylum and reception officials in the past 3 years), common quality and common Country of Origin Information (COI); EASO operational support, on the ground, in Member States (in particular, its missions, in Italy, Bulgaria, Greece and Cyprus); EASO's support towards third-country (i.e. non-member country) and EASO's Early warning and Preparedness system (EPS) (using the Early warning and Preparedness System, EASO provides risk analysis of asylum influx from third countries).

Moreover, at EASO, Mr. Harlem Désir attended a working lunch with a number of important stakeholders working in the area of asylum and migration.

EASO's Executive Director thanked Minister Désir for France's active involvement in the work and activities of EASO. Moreover, he highlighted that following the ten point action plan on migration and the statement of the European Council, EASO stands ready to use all tools at its disposal to make an immediate difference and improve the situation in the Mediterranean. EASO is now already working together with Member States, the European Commission and other EU agencies on the implementation of these measures, in particular those related to joint processing of asylum applications and fighting smuggling networks.

Hon. Minister Harlem Désir reaffirmed "France's political engagement in the Mediterranean area which is key for peace and security both in Europe and North Africa, and France's support to long lasting and comprehensive solutions to the migration issues in the Mediterranean" [...] In that context, EASO role as a European support agency at a time when many countries face increasing pressure in terms of migrations is critical and should be recognized".

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