

Press Release

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European Parliament delegation visits EASO

Today, a delegation made up of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), from the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party, visited the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) to discuss its work, tools and activities and a number of proposals related to the possible future enlargement of the role of EASO with a view to enable it to enhance its support to Member States' asylum and reception systems.

The delegation was made up by the following MEPs: Cecilia WIKSTRÖM (SE), Sophie IN 'T VELD (NL), Angelika MLINAR (AT), Nathalie GRIESBECK (FR) and Petr JEZEK (CZ).

During the visit, the MEPs met with EASO's Executive Director, Dr Robert K. Visser to discuss 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, the meeting also discussed ALDE's proposals contained in ALDE's *Blueprint for a new European agenda on migration* document. These proposals include, a call for the enlargement of the mandate of the EASO to be able to enhance its support Member States on the front line to process and treat with dignity asylum seekers and an increase in the financial resources for EASO.

EASO's Executive Director thanked the MEPs for their interest in the work of EASO and their active involvement in the areas of asylum and migration. On the proposals of ALDE (which are contained in the *Blueprint for a new European agenda on migration* document), the EASO Executive Director held that it was positive to get new ideas to the discussion. On the points related to EASO, it was appreciated that MEPs recognised the important role which EASO plays in supporting Member States' asylum and reception systems and they have repeatedly called for an increase in the budgetary allocation for EASO and an enlargement of its mandate.

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