

# Implementing the Common European Asylum System: *Towards Better Protection and Fairer Procedures*



**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014**  
NH Hotel du Grand Sablon  
Brussels



# Implementing the Common European Asylum System: Towards Better Protection and Fairer Procedures

## Overview

In 2012, there were over 330,000 applications for asylum in the EU, representing a 10% increase on the previous year highlighting the need to provide adequate protection measures and responses throughout the EU. In addition to the figures, other elements provide cause for concern, such as the growing number of unaccompanied minors. Groups such as these require particular attention and measures in order to properly protect them.

The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union adopted legislation in June 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection. This is the latest development in a series of steps towards harmonising asylum procedures in the EU. These developments towards the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) should enter into force in 2015; with the most recent Dublin rules being implemented in 2014. This raises the question of the challenges to implementation faced by Member States and how these new rules and regulations will impact the existing systems and standards already in place.

The EU institutions and the agencies that have been created are vital in providing a monitoring role and pushing towards harmonisation, whilst managing borders in an effective way that ensures respect for fundamental rights. These agencies provide a focal point for the EU to undertake research and gather information, as well as giving a range of support, training and stimulation for further action.

This timely International Symposium will examine the implications of current directives and rules for asylum at an EU level and assess the implementation challenges for Member States as they transpose them into their national legislation. The Symposium offers a vital platform to discuss the current dimensions for granting and withdrawing international protection and explore how all stakeholders must contribute to facilitate better cooperation and better protection for asylum seekers, which includes finding the right compromise between guaranteeing human rights and ensuring that immigration controls are effective and efficient.

The Symposium will support the exchange of ideas and encourage delegates to engage in thought-provoking topical debate with local and regional practitioners and policymakers at EU level.

***The CEAS will provide better access to the asylum procedure for those who request protection; will lead to fairer, quicker and better quality asylum decisions; will ensure that people in fear of persecution will not be returned to danger; and will provide dignified and decent conditions for both those who apply for asylum and those who are granted international protection within the EU.***

***It will also better equip Member States with the necessary tools to detect and prevent abuses and will introduce more consistent and robust quality standards all around the European Union."***

- Cecilia Malmström, EU Commissioner for Home Affairs, December 2013

## Venue and Accommodation

NH Hotel Grand Sablon,  
Rue Bodenbroek 2/4. B-1000 Brussels  
Belgium



## Why Attend?

- ✓ Discuss the implementation challenges for the Common European Asylum System
- ✓ Analyse the current asylum dimensions and opportunities in Europe
- ✓ Explore possibilities for increasing cooperation between Member States and major stakeholders in improving reallocation and resettlement policies in Europe
- ✓ Exchange best practices from pivotal projects implemented in Europe

## Who Should Attend?

- National Governmental Organisations
- Immigration Advisers
- Legal Advisers
- Local and Regional Government Departments and Bodies
- Regulatory Bodies
- Citizens Advice and Third Sector Practitioners
- Anti-Trafficking Practitioners
- Vulnerable Persons Coordinators
- Missing Persons Units
- Border Control Officials
- Port and Airport Authorities
- Asylum and Refugee Groups
- Health Treatment and Advisory Services
- Social Workers and Social Services Officers
- Social Inclusion Officers
- Public Health Authorities
- Asylum Team Managers
- Refugee and Asylum Support Officers
- Sheltered Housing Scheme Managers
- Local, Regional and National Health Services
- Social Care Professionals
- Private Sectors Employers
- Public Sector Employers
- Homelessness Assessment and Prevention Officers
- Housing Associations
- Employee Relations Advisers
- Legal Advisers Community Cohesion Officers
- Community Engagement Officers
- Community Relations Advisers
- Overseas Student Recruitment Officers
- Asylum and Immigration Tribunals
- Funding Councils
- Research Councils
- Campaigning Organisations
- International Organisations
- Academics

# Implementing the Common European Asylum System: Towards Better Protection and Fairer Procedures

## Programme

09:15	Registration and Morning Refreshments
10:00	Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks
10:10	<b>Current Regulation Implementation Challenges Within the EU</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assessing the Impact and Role of the Dublin III Regulation</li><li>• Inter-Agency and Inter-Institutional Cooperation Challenges and Successes</li><li>• Ensuring and Facilitating Member State Compliance and Coordination</li><li>• Recommendations for Future Policy Initiatives</li></ul>
10:40	<b>First Round of Discussions</b>
11:10	Morning Coffee Break
11:30	<b>Analysing Current Asylum Dimensions in Europe</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assessing the Issue of Unaccompanied Minors</li><li>• Discussing Detention of Asylum Seekers Under the EU Legal Framework</li><li>• Including and Identifying Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Criteria</li><li>• Targeting Better Integration and Provision of Opportunities</li><li>• Conclusions and Recommendations</li></ul>
12:00	<b>Second Round of Discussions</b>
12:30	Networking Lunch
13:30	<b>Towards Effective, Harmonised and Ethical Border Control in the EU</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increasing and Further Developing Specialised Training</li><li>• Analysing Migration Routes and Targeting Better Migration Flow Management</li><li>• Assessing the Role of New Technologies and Systems</li><li>• Recommendations for Future Action</li></ul>
14:00	<b>Third Round of Discussions</b>
14:30	Afternoon Coffee Break
14:50	<b>Ensuring the Protection and Guaranteeing Rights of Asylum Seekers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Providing Support and Better Informing Asylum Seekers of their Rights</li><li>• Exploring Asylum Seekers Access to Services in Europe</li><li>• Regional Protection Programmes - Consolidating Protection Capacities in the Regions of Origin</li><li>• Past and Ongoing Initiatives - Lessons Learned and Recommendations</li></ul>
15:20	<b>Fourth Round of Discussions</b>
15:50	Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
16:00	Networking Reception
16:30	Symposium Close

*\*\*Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice\*\**

## Event Details

**Date:** Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014  
**Time:** 10:00am – 4:30pm  
**Venue:** NH Hotel du Grand Sablon, Brussels



## Key Speakers

- ✓ **Matthias Oel**, Head of Unit, Asylum and Relations with EASO, DG Home Affairs, European Commission (confirmed)
- ✓ **Markus Jaeger**, Head of Migration, Coordination, Council of Europe (confirmed)
- ✓ **Dr. Michèle Morel**, Legal Expert, Asylum and Migration, Caritas International (confirmed)
- ✓ **Rachel Westerby**, City Coordinator, Chair of SHARE Project, International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) Europe (confirmed)
- ✓ **Barbara Harrell-Bond OBE**, Honorary Associate, Emerita Professor and Founding Director, Refugee Studies Centre, Honorary Fellow, Lady Margaret Hall, Co-Director, Fahamu Refugee Programme (confirmed)
- ✓ **Peter Graham**, Associate Partner and Global Leader for Border Security and Immigration at IBM, Global Business Services (confirmed)
- ✓ **Richard Lewis**, Senior Research Fellow Migration and Diversity, Institute for European Studies, Vrije Universiteit Brussels (confirmed)

## Marketing and Exhibition Opportunities

We offer a range of opportunities to enable your organisation to raise its profile and communicate with key decision makers in the public sector.

For further information please contact:

**Parvin Madahar** on +44 (0) 20 3137 8630

or email [parvin.madahar@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk](mailto:parvin.madahar@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk)