

EASO brings together civil society to discuss asylum reception conditions

On 5 December 2018, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) convened its 8th annual Consultative Forum Plenary Meeting in Brussels with over 200 participants from NGOs and academia, as well as international organisations, EU institutions and Member States.

The 8th Consultative Forum Plenary Meeting focused on the **reception of applicants for international protection**. This is an important area of the EU's asylum acquis that holds great potential for the cross-fertilisation of ideas between EASO and civil society, as explained by EASO's Executive Director a.i., **Jamil Addou**, during his opening statements:

"Reception is one of the primary stages of Member States' asylum systems; the provision of dignified reception conditions whereby applicants have effective access to support services is key for successful integration and for our societies. However, reception is also a key area of the CEAS that is in need of structural improvements".

Mr. Addou emphasised that civil society possesses a wealth of knowledge and experience in the field of reception and encouraged participants to provide *"concrete ideas and solutions to jointly better serve applicants for international protection, ensuring that they are offered a dignified standard of living and comparable living conditions in all Member States"*.

The meeting was divided into four main sessions, each addressing specific aspects of reception. Following opening statements by Mr. Addou, the European Commission's Deputy Director General for Home Affairs and Migration, Simon Mordue, and the Belgian Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons, Dirk van den Bulck, representatives from EASO provided an overview of recent asylum trends, including an overview of EASO's main activities in the field of reception. This was followed by a panel debate on the flexibility of national reception systems and their capacity to efficiently and effectively respond to changing inflows.

In the afternoon, participants engaged in five parallel participatory workshops on key topics of reception: i) provision of information; ii) reception of children' iii) emergency reception provision; iv) coordination between different stakeholders involved in reception, and; v) reception and society. A final debate on "Reception: Future Perspectives" closed the meeting.

Background

The annual plenary meeting of the Consultative Forum brings together all of EASO's stakeholders, most notably civil society organisations, including NGOs and academia, as well as IGOs, EU institutions and Member States, in order to exchange information and pool knowledge, with a view of ensuring that close

dialogue is maintained between the Agency and its partners.

The plenary follows other meetings held with civil society earlier this year, including a thematic meeting on the provision of information in Malta and an informal Consultative Forum Planning Meeting in Brussels during which members contributed their ideas for the Plenary. The Plenary further builds on other activities with civil society, including electronic consultations that EASO has held with civil society on key documents and many EASO meetings/activities in which civil society representatives were invited to participate.

[Indicative programme – Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council, 06-07/12/2018](#)

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Place:

Europa building, Brussels

Chair:

Beate Hartinger-Klein, Federal Minister of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection

All times are approximate and subject to change

Thursday 6 December (Employment and Social policy issues)

from 08:00

Arrivals

+/- 08:15

Doorstep by minister Hartinger-Klein

09.30

Beginning of Council meeting (roundtable)

Adoption of the agenda

Adoption of non-legislative legislative A items

Adoption of legislative legislative A items

+/- 09.45

Regulation on establishing a European Labour Authority ([live streaming](#))

European Semester 2019

- Annual Growth Survey (AGS), Alert Mechanism Report (AMR), draft Joint Employment Report (JER), and draft Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area
- Contribution on employment and social aspects of the draft Recommendation on the economic policy of the euro area
- Thematic Reviews on “Social Aspects of Digitalisation” (SPC) and “Digitalisation and Robotisation of Work” (EMCO)
- Implementation of the Recommendation on long-term unemployment: EMCO key messages

+/- 11:30

Any other business

- Tripartite Social Summit (Brussels, 16 October 2018)
- Joint non-paper on the future of the LGBTI list of actions

+/- 11:50

Directive on carcinogens or mutagens at work ([live streaming](#))

+/- 12:10

Recommendation on access to social protection for workers and self-employed

+/- 13.00

Working lunch debate – MFF investments in people: contribution of EU funds and programmes to convergence, fairness and competitiveness

+/- 14:30

Regulation on the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF) ([live streaming](#))

+/- 14:45

Conclusions on gender equality, youth and digitalisation

+/- 15:30

Directive on equal treatment (Article 19) ([live streaming](#))

+/- 15:40

Any other business

– Current legislative proposals

Revision of Directive on carcinogens and mutagens (2nd batch)

Revision of Regulations on Agencies (Eurofound, OSHA and CEDEFOP)

Directive on Accessibility Act

Directive on Work-life balance

Directive on transparent and predictable working conditions

Revision of the Regulations on the Coordination of Social Security Systems

– Commission activities

EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies: Midterm evaluation

Future of Work Conference (April 2019)

Union for the Mediterranean (UfM): Ministerial meeting (April 2019)

– Presidency events

Digitalisation of work

Fight against occupational cancer

Gender equality events

– Joint Declaration “Gender Equality as a Priority of the European Union today and in the future”

– Work programme of the incoming Presidency

+/- 17.00

Press conference ([live streaming](#))

Friday 7 December – Health issues

from 08.00

Arrivals

+/- 08:30

Doorstep by minister Hartinger-Klein

09.30

Beginning of Council meeting (roundtable health)

Cooperation against vaccine preventable diseases ([live streaming](#))

– Recommendation on strengthened cooperation against vaccine-preventable diseases

– Tackling vaccine hesitancy at EU and national level: Challenges and possibilities in a digitalised world

Any other business

– Regulation on health technology assessment and amending Directive 2011/24/EU

– State of health in the EU

– WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco control (FCTC): Eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP8) (Geneva, 1-6 October 2018)

– Implementation of Directive 2011/62/EU on falsified medicinal products

– Challenges ahead in the medical device sector

– Outcomes of conferences organised by the Austrian Presidency

Matching health needs and pharmaceutical research: How to set the research agenda for public health (Vienna, 25 September 2018)

People’s food – people’s health: Towards healthy and sustainable European food systems (Vienna, 22-23 November 2018)

– Outcome of the Informal meeting of Health Ministers (Vienna, 10-11 September 2018)

– Nomination of the Regional Director of the European Region of the World Health Organisation

– Work programme of the incoming Presidency

+/- 13.15

Press conference ([live streaming](#))

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To protect its democratic systems and public debates and in view of the 2019 European elections as well as a number of national and local elections that will be held in Member States by 2020, the EU is presenting today an Action Plan to step up efforts to counter disinformation in Europe and beyond.

[Déclaration du Président Juncker au point presse conjoint avec Viorica Dăncilă, Première ministre de la Roumanie](#)

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[Letter of congratulations from President Donald Tusk to Xavier Bettel on his reappointment as Prime Minister of Luxembourg](#)

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