

EUROPEAN COMMISSION NEWS



Parliament gives green light to the new European asylum system

New rules laying down common procedures and deadlines for handling asylum applications and basic rights for asylum seekers arriving in the EU were endorsed by Parliament on Wednesday. The Common European Asylum System will also stop transfers of asylum seekers to member states unable to ensure decent living conditions for them.

The new asylum system updates laws passed about a decade ago. Some 330,000 asylum applicants were registered in EU countries in 2012.

The new asylum rules, which have already been agreed by Parliament and Council representatives and backed by national governments, should enter into force in the second half of 2015.

The Dublin rules on transfers of asylum seekers will take effect six months after their legal entry into force (i.e. at the start of 2014).

[Read more](#)



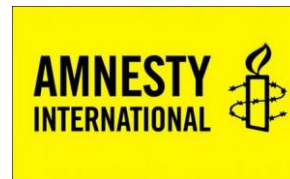
Fundamental rights and the rule of law

The European Council adopted conclusions on fundamental rights and rule of law as well as on the Commission's 2012 report on the application of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU.

The Council called upon the Commission to take forward the debate on the possible need for and shape of methods or initiatives to better safeguard fundamental values, in particular the rule of law and fundamental rights of persons in the Union and to counter extreme forms of intolerance, such as racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and homophobia.

Concerning the Commission's report on the application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, the Council noted that the Charter has become a dynamic reference point for the EU institutions and for the member states when implementing EU law.

Ministers were also briefed on the state of play on the EU's accession to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR). The Council emphasizes that EU accession to ECHR will further enhance coherence in human rights protection in Europe, increase judicial dialogue and improve the consistency of case-law. It welcomed the agreement reached at negotiators' level on EU accession to the Convention.



Report 2013: World increasingly dangerous for refugees and migrants

Global inaction on human rights is making the world an increasingly dangerous place for refugees and migrants, Amnesty International said as it launched its [annual assessment of the world's human rights](#).

The rights of millions of people who have escaped conflict and persecution, or migrated to seek work and a better life for themselves and their families, have been abused. Governments around the world are accused of showing more interest in protecting their national borders than the rights of their citizens or the rights of those seeking refuge or opportunities within those borders.

The European Union implements border control measures that put the lives of migrants and asylum-seekers at risk and fails to guarantee the safety of those fleeing conflict and persecution. Around the world, migrants and asylum-seekers are regularly locked up in detention centers and in worst case scenarios are held in metal crates or even shipping containers. The rights of huge numbers of the world's 214 million migrants were not protected by their home or their host state. Millions of migrants worked in conditions amounting to forced labour - or in some cases slavery-like conditions - because governments treated them like criminals and because corporations cared more about profits than workers' rights. Undocumented migrants were particularly at risk of exploitation and human rights abuse.

SEMINARS



"Wipe out hate - UNITED in Solidarity" 25-30 October 2013, near Prague (CZ)

Currently, Europe is facing the growing success of populist and extremist right-wing movements. Using people's prejudices, concerns and fears in time of crisis, right-wing populists and extreme-right groups are succeeding with exclusionist slogans and simple "solutions". The report, "Intolerance, Prejudice and Discrimination" documents widespread prejudiced opinions in Europe, mistrust in current political system and hostile discriminatory intentions toward migrants and minority groups. This alarming situation needs joint efforts from European institutions, politicians and NGOs to establish attitudes favoring cultural diversity. UNITED invites activists from anti-discrimination organisations to join the conference in the Czech Republic, finding together strategies for this situation.

Application procedure

Organisations interested in nominating a delegate should send their nomination by email before the deadline:

5 September 2013 - 24:00 to
prague@unitedagainstracism.org