

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Union Agency for Asylum and repealing Regulation (EU) No. 439/2010 (COM (2016) 271 final)

PROPOSED FINAL DOCUMENT

The Committee on Constitutional Affairs of Italy's Chamber of Deputies, having examined pursuant to Rule of Procedure No. 127, the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Union Agency for Asylum, and repealing Regulation (EU) No. 439/2010 (COM (2016) 271 final),

Whereas:

- One of the effects of the continuous inflow year after year of migrants into some EU States - Greece and Italy in particular - has been that the countries in question find themselves compelled to process a disproportionate number of applications for international protection;
- As the migration inflows into Europe are by now structural rather than episodic in nature, the European institutions have resolved to bolster the support accorded to the most exposed Member States, by, in particular, making arrangements for the greater involvement of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) in the processing of asylum applications at "hotspots" (the migration registration and identification centres that were set up in Greece and Italy to coincide with the launch of the relocation programmes), and by ensuring that EASO shall lend more direct assistance to the competent authorities of Member States;
- The proposal would so extend the current mandate of EASO as to turn it into a fully-fledged agency that would be sufficiently equipped to enhance practical cooperation and information exchange on asylum, promote EU law and operational standards to ensure a high degree of uniform application of the legal framework on asylum, ensure greater convergence in the assessment of protection needs across the Union, monitor and assess the implementation of EU asylum legislation, and provide increased operational and technical assistance to Member States for the management of the asylum and reception systems, in particular in cases of disproportionate pressure;
- The new regulation would, *inter alia*, assign the Agency the new task of assisting the European Commission in the regular review of the situation in third countries included in the common EU list of safe countries of origin;
- Article 12 of the proposal gives the Agency responsibility for developing operational standards on the implementation of the

instruments of Union law on asylum and indicators for monitoring compliance with those operational standards;

- We particularly welcome the measure set out in article 18 of the proposal that empowers the Agency to deploy asylum support teams drawing upon an asylum intervention pool of not less than 500 experts from Member States and from the Agency itself, and to provide technical and operational assistance to any Member State subjected to disproportionate pressure in the form of exceptionally heavy and urgent demands on its asylum or reception systems;

Mindful that the present final document needs to be transmitted promptly to the European Commission as part of the political dialogue, as well as to the European Parliament and the Council,

does hereby express itself in favour of the Proposal

with the following remark:

The appropriate instrument to adopt and give effect to the EU's operational standards on the implementation of the instruments of Union law on asylum and the indicators for monitoring compliance with those operational standards could be a Decision of the European Commission, even if those standards and indicators are designed by EASO.