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**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION
TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF REGIONS**

**POLICY PLAN ON ASYLUM
AN INTEGRATED APPROACH TO PROTECTION ACROSS THE EU**

{SEC(2008) 2029}

{SEC(2008) 2030}

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Work on the creation of a Common European Asylum System (CEAS) started immediately after the entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam in May 1999, on the basis of the orientations given by the Tampere European Council. During the first phase of the CEAS (1999-2005), the goal was to harmonise Member States' legal frameworks on the basis of common minimum standards.¹

The Hague Programme set as the aims of the CEAS in its second phase the establishment of a common asylum procedure and a uniform status for those who are granted asylum or subsidiary protection, as well as strengthening practical cooperation between national asylum administrations and the external dimension of asylum.

The Commission considered that, before proposing any new initiative, an in-depth reflection and debate with all the relevant stakeholders on the future architecture of the CEAS was also necessary. It therefore presented a Green Paper in June 2007, which aimed at identifying possible options for shaping the second phase of the CEAS. The response to the public consultation included 89 contributions from a wide range of stakeholders.² The issues raised and the suggestions put forward during the consultation have provided the basis for the preparation of this Policy Plan.

Building on the existing and future legal framework, this Policy Plan defines a road-map for the coming years and lists the measures that the Commission intends to propose in order to complete the second phase of the CEAS.

The entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon (hereafter, the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union 'TFEU') will modify the legal framework in asylum policy. The Policy Plan will therefore be implemented under two different legal frameworks: the existing Treaty provisions and those of the TFEU. Under both regimes, the Geneva Convention³ plays a fundamental role.

This possible modification of the legal basis will have an impact on the time-frame for the presentation of the proposals outlined in this Policy Plan. This will mean that the deadline for the completion of the second phase of the CEAS might have to be rescheduled, possibly for 2012. A roadmap of the initiatives can be found in Annex I.

1.2. Trends

Three important trends can be identified from an analysis of available statistical data. These trends and their implications for future developments in asylum policy are further analysed in the Impact Assessment attached to this Policy Plan.

¹ All relevant legislative instruments and policy documents are listed in Annex II.

² Available at http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/news/consulting_public/gp_asylum_system/news_contributions_asylum_system_en.htm

³ All references to the Geneva Convention are understood to be to the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol

Firstly, the historically low levels of asylum applications in most Member States mean that most Member States' asylum systems are currently under less pressure than in the recent past (though some border States have witnessed an increase in the asylum flows resulting, notably, from their geographical position). This appears to be the right moment to concentrate efforts on improving their quality.

Secondly, the differences in decisions to recognise or reject asylum requests from applicants from the same countries of origin point to a critical flaw in the current CEAS: even after some legislative harmonisation at EU level has taken place, a lack of common practice, different traditions and diverse country of origin information sources are, among other reasons, producing divergent results. This is creating secondary movements and goes against the principle of providing equal access to protection across the EU.

Thirdly, when looking at positive decisions, an ever-growing percentage of applicants are granted subsidiary protection or other kinds of protection status based on national law, rather than refugee status according to the Geneva Convention. This is probably due to the fact that an increasing share of today's conflicts and persecutions are not covered by the Convention. It will therefore be important during the second phase of the CEAS to pay particular attention to subsidiary and other forms of protection.

2. THE OVERARCHING OBJECTIVES OF THE CEAS

A genuinely coherent, comprehensive and integrated CEAS should:

- ensure **access for those in need of protection**: asylum in the EU must remain accessible. Legitimate measures introduced to curb irregular migration and protect external borders should avoid preventing refugees' access to protection in the EU while ensuring a respect for fundamental rights of all migrants. This equally translates into efforts to facilitate access to protection outside the territory of the EU;
- provide for a single, **common procedure** for reasons of efficiency, speed, quality and fairness of the decisions;
- establish **uniform statuses** for asylum and for subsidiary protection, which share most rights and obligations, whilst allowing for justified differences in treatment;
- incorporate **gender** considerations and take into account the special needs of **vulnerable groups**;
- increase **practical cooperation** in order to develop, *inter alia*, common training, as well as jointly assessing Country of Origin Information and organising support for Member States experiencing particular pressures;
- determine **responsibility** and support **solidarity**: the CEAS must include rules on the determination of the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application and provide for genuine **solidarity** mechanisms, both within the EU and with third countries;
- ensure **coherence with other policies** that have an impact on international protection, notably: border control, the fight against illegal immigration and return policies.

To attain these objectives the Commission proposes a three-pronged strategy in this Policy Plan, based on:

- better and more harmonised standards of protection through further alignment of Member States' asylum laws (section 3);
- effective and well-supported practical cooperation (section 4); and
- a higher degree of solidarity and responsibility among the Member States, as well as between the EU and third countries (section 5).

The provisions of the Geneva Convention, the evolving jurisprudence of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and the full respect of the Charter of Fundamental Rights will be a constant reference for this strategy.

3. TOWARDS BETTER QUALITY AND ENHANCED HARMONISATION OF STANDARDS OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

As a whole, the first phase legislative instruments of the CEAS can be considered as an important achievement and form the basis on which the second phase must be built. However, shortcomings have been identified and it is clear that the agreed common minimum standards have not created the desired level playing field. The Commission therefore intends to propose amendments to existing legislation and to consider new instruments. At the same time the Commission will continue to monitor that existing provisions are properly implemented and respected.

3.1. The Reception Conditions Directive (RCD)

The Commission's evaluation report on the RCD identified a number of problematic issues largely due to the amount of discretion allowed to Member States in a number of key areas. The amended instrument should contribute to achieving a higher degree of harmonisation and improved standards of reception, so as to limit the scope for such issues to drive secondary movements.

To this end, the Commission will propose amendments in the course of 2008, in order to:

- cover persons seeking subsidiary protection, ensuring consistency with the rest of the asylum *acquis*;
- ensure greater equality and improved standards of treatment with regard to the level and form of material reception conditions;
- provide for simplified and more harmonised access to the labour market, ensuring that actual access to employment is not hindered by additional unnecessary administrative restrictions, without prejudice to Member States' competences;
- incorporate procedural guarantees on detention; and
- guarantee that the special needs of vulnerable persons, such as children, women, victims of torture or person with medical needs, are identified immediately and that adequate care is available for them.

3.2. The Asylum Procedures Directive (APD)

Diverse procedural arrangements and qualified safeguards produce different results when applying common criteria for the identification of persons genuinely in need of international protection. This can damage the very objective of ensuring access to protection under equivalent conditions across the EU. In addition, both the Hague Programme and the TFEU call for the establishment of a common asylum procedure. This requires a fundamentally higher level of alignment between Member States' asylum procedures, as confirmed by the Green Paper consultation.

In order to achieve this goal, the amendments to the APD (to be proposed in 2009) will primarily aim at:

- setting up of a single, common asylum procedure leaving no space for the proliferation of disparate procedural arrangements in Member States, thus providing for a comprehensive examination of protection needs under both the Geneva Convention and the EU's subsidiary protection regime;
- establishing obligatory procedural safeguards as well as common notions and devices, which will consolidate the asylum process and ensure equal access to procedures throughout the Union;
- accommodating the particular situation of mixed arrivals, including where persons seeking international protection are present at the external borders of the EU; and
- enhancing gender equality in the asylum process and providing for additional safeguards for vulnerable applicants.

3.3. The Qualification Directive (QD)

The QD has secured a minimum alignment on both the criteria for granting international protection⁴ and the content of protection statuses across the EU. The positive impact of the Directive has been evident in many Member States. However, data show that the recognition of protection needs of applicants from the same countries of origin still varies significantly from one Member State to another. To some extent, this phenomenon is rooted in the wording of certain provisions of the QD.

In order to ensure a truly common interpretative approach and to achieve the objective of introducing uniform statuses (as required by the Hague Programme and the TFEU) the Commission will propose, in the course of 2009, to:

- amend the criteria for qualifying for international protection under this Directive. To this effect, it may be necessary *inter alia* to clarify further the eligibility conditions for subsidiary protection, since the wording of the current relevant provisions allows for substantial divergences in the interpretation and the application of the concept across Member States;
- define with more precision when non-state parties may be considered as actors of protection. In particular, the Commission will consider the need to stipulate in greater

⁴ International protection covers both refugee and subsidiary protection status.

detail the criteria to be used by Member States authorities in order to assess the capacity of a potential actor of protection to provide effective, accessible and durable protection;

- clarify the conditions for the application of the concept of internal flight alternative i.e. the conditions under which it may be considered that an applicant for asylum has a genuine protection alternative in a certain part of his/her country of origin, taking into account recent developments in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights;

and

- reconsider the level of rights and benefits to be secured for beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, in order to enhance their access to social and economic entitlements which are crucial for their successful integration, whilst ensuring respect for the principle of family unity across the EU.

In addition, the possibility of establishing an effective transfer of protection mechanism will be explored, either as part of the amendment to the QD or as a separate instrument.

Finally, a study will be launched on the possible alignment of national types of protection status which do not currently fall under the EU's regime of international protection.

4. PRACTICAL COOPERATION

Member States are nowadays bound by an important asylum *acquis*. However, large discrepancies between asylum decisions (even within similar caseloads) still exist. This is due on the one hand to the low standards of harmonisation of the current legislation, and on the other hand, to different practices in national administrations. It is therefore necessary to accompany legal harmonisation with effective practical cooperation.

One of the main goals of practical cooperation is to improve convergence in asylum decision-making by Member States, within the EU legislative framework. A substantial number of practical cooperation activities have already been undertaken in recent years, notably on a common approach on Country of Origin Information and on the establishment of a common European Asylum Curriculum. The replies to the Green Paper showed wide support for enhancing practical cooperation activities and for the idea of creating a dedicated structure to support and coordinate such activities in the form of a European Asylum Support Office (EASO).

In order to ensure that those activities are given the proper support needed and to widen the scope of cooperation, the Commission has launched a feasibility study on the establishment of structural support for practical cooperation in the field of asylum. The results of this study will be available in July 2008. On the basis of the study's findings and in line with the mandate of the Hague Programme and the JHA Council conclusions adopted on 18 April 2008, the Commission will put forward in 2008 a legislative proposal for the creation of the EASO. The EASO will provide practical assistance to Member States in taking decisions on asylum claims. In the meantime, support for existing activities will continue to be ensured.

5. PROMOTING RESPONSIBILITY AND SOLIDARITY

In the TFEU, "*Solidarity and fair sharing of Responsibility*" is a principle which governs the implementation of a number of common policies, including the CEAS. Moreover, the TFEU lists as one of the elements of the CEAS: "*partnership and cooperation with third countries for the purpose of managing inflows of people applying for asylum or subsidiary or temporary protection*".

Therefore, the third strand of the three-pronged strategy should be based on responsibility and solidarity, within the EU and between the Union and third countries.

5.1. Fair sharing of responsibility and Solidarity within the EU

As recognised by the Hague Programme, one of the objectives of the CEAS is to assist those Member States which, notably because of their geographical position, are faced with particular pressures on their national asylum systems. It is the Union's responsibility to find a common response, based on the principle of solidarity, to the challenges faced by specific Member States.

It should be noted that further alignment of national asylum procedures, legal standards, reception conditions and enhanced practical cooperation, as envisaged in this Policy Plan, are bound to reduce those secondary movements of asylum seekers which are mainly due to divergent applications of the rules. This could therefore result in a fairer overall distribution of asylum applications between Member States.

In addition, the proposed extension of the provisions of the Long-Term Residents Directive to beneficiaries of international protection, as well the transfer of protection mechanism proposed in sections 3.3., may also have a positive effect on 'overburdened' Member States

5.1.1. *Amendments to the Dublin system*

The Commission decided to take a two-track approach by separating the technical and the policy evaluation of the Dublin system. The evaluation report published on 6 June 2007 constituted the technical assessment, while the Green Paper consultation served as policy evaluation.

The evaluation confirmed that the objectives of the system, notably to establish a clear and workable mechanism for determining responsibility for asylum applications, have, to a large extent, been achieved. During the consultation, there was general support from Member States for maintaining the current system, whilst recognising the need to improve certain aspects.

The Commission considers that the underlying principles of the Dublin system are worth upholding and that, in the long term, the higher common standards of protection resulting from the completion of the CEAS will eliminate most of the concerns regarding the operation of the current system, by ensuring that persons transferred to other Member States have equal access to protection.

While acknowledging that a system which clearly allocates responsibility for the examination of an asylum claim is necessary in order to avoid the phenomenon of 'asylum shopping', the Commission is committed to evaluating the application of the Dublin

Regulation at regular intervals and, once the second phase of the CEAS is in place, of the principles on which it is based

In the short term, and in order to address the shortcomings identified in the evaluation report, the Commission will propose in 2008 amendments to both the Dublin and the Eurodac Regulations. Firstly, their scope will be extended to include subsidiary protection, to ensure consistency with the evolved asylum *acquis*.

As regards the amendments specific to the Dublin Regulation, the Commission will:

- strengthen and clarify several provisions in order to ensure better compliance and uniform application by the Member States (in particular the provisions on the humanitarian and sovereignty clause and those relating to family unity); and
- introduce amendments to enhance the efficiency of the system (notably as regards deadlines).

Concerning the amendments specific to EURODAC, as already announced in the Dublin system evaluation, the Commission will propose:

- to unblock data on recognised refugees and to make them searchable by national asylum authorities, in order to avoid that a recognised refugee in one Member State applies for protection in another Member State;
- to clarify deadlines for transmission of data and rules for their deletion, in order to improve the efficiency of the system; and
- to introduce more information in the system in order to ensure a better determination of the Member State responsible.

In addition, the Commission will further examine the feasibility and conditions to allow access to EURODAC by Member States' authorities and Europol for law enforcement purposes in line with the Commission's communication on interoperability and the Council Conclusions of 12-13 June 2007.⁵

5.1.2. *Solidarity mechanisms*

The Dublin system was not devised as a burden sharing instrument: nevertheless, its functioning may *de facto* result in additional burdens on Member States that have limited reception and absorption capacities and who find themselves under particular migratory pressures because of their geographical location.

The Commission believes that the best way to ensure a high degree of solidarity is not to adopt a new overarching instrument, but to put at the disposal of Member States a series of mechanisms, which will help them cope with the variety of challenges they are faced with.

To this end, the Commission will propose:

⁵ This specific amendment will be proposed in 2009.

- the launch of a study assessing the possibilities for joint processing in the EU of specific caseloads, as requested by the Hague Programme, which would also examine how joint processing might alleviate the pressure on specific 'overburdened' Member States;
- to create a Community mechanism which would allow, in well defined and exceptional circumstances, for the possibility of temporarily suspending the application of the Dublin rules for transfers of asylum-seekers to a Member State whose reception system cannot adequately deal with the transferred persons;
- to create asylum expert teams who would be coordinated by the EASO and could be called upon to assist overburdened Member States, on a temporary basis, in performing the initial profiling of asylum-seekers. In particular, the expert teams could provide support through interpretation services, as well as case-working and country of origin expertise;
- to facilitate the internal re-allocation, on a voluntary basis, of beneficiaries of international protection from one Member State to another in cases of exceptional asylum pressure, by *inter alia* providing specific EU funding under existing financial instruments.

Finally, the issue of the financial burden posed by high numbers of asylum seekers on the resources of Member States should be looked at from the wider perspective of general migratory pressures. The Commission will launch a study in the course of 2009 to evaluate possible methods of improving the impact of EU financial solidarity, including the European Refugee Fund, and to assess whether the existing financial instruments provide effective support to the challenges Member States face in addressing strong irregular migratory pressures. Proposals will be considered on the basis of the results of the study.

5.2. External solidarity

In the coming years, the focus on the external dimension of asylum will become even stronger. The EU must share the responsibility for managing refugees with third countries and countries of first asylum, which receive a far greater percentage of the world's refugees than Europe. In this regard, more financial support will be available to enhance protection capacity in third countries. For the period 2007-2013, a total amount of €384 million is available under the 'Thematic Programme of Cooperation with Third Countries in the Areas of Migration and Asylum'. One of its key priorities is asylum and international protection.

Furthermore, the Commission will continue to integrate capacity building for asylum in development cooperation with third countries, placing the emphasis on a long term, comprehensive approach. Asylum should not be treated as crisis management but as integral part of the development agenda in the area of governance, migration and human rights protection.

In addition to this, the Commission believes that, to make a commitment of solidarity towards third countries effective, the EU should focus on three different but interlinked types of measures to promote refugee protection:

5.2.1. *Regional Protection Programmes (RPPs)*

In response to the Green Paper, many stakeholders have underlined the importance of RPPs as a means to reinforce the external asylum dimension.

The Commission is currently working in close cooperation with Member States, recipient countries, UNHCR and other key stakeholders to develop RPPs further, so as to have a substantial impact on improving the protection and asylum systems in specific regions of the world. To this purpose, and on the basis of the evaluation to be carried out in 2008, RPPs will be made into regional multi-annual action plans, in full coherence with National and Regional Action Plans and the Thematic Programme, which will identify protection gaps and concrete activities to be implemented.

The current RPPs, which are carried out in Tanzania (as part of the Great Lakes region) and Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova, will be further developed in 2009.

The Commission will examine – in line with its Communication of 2005 – whether RPPs can be developed in other regions, such as northern Africa, the horn of Africa, Afghanistan and the Middle East, and may potentially make new proposals in this regard. In the selection of new regions for RPPs a number of factors will be taken into account, including the assessment of particular refugee situations, financial opportunities available under EU funds and existing relationships and frameworks for cooperation between the Union and particular countries or regions.

5.2.2. *Resettlement*

Resettlement fulfils an important role in the external asylum policies of the EU and there is much to be gained from a higher degree of cooperation on resettlement among Member States, UNHCR and NGOs.

This was widely acknowledged in the responses to the Green Paper. Resettlement will therefore be further developed and expanded into an effective protection instrument to be used by the EU to meet the protection needs of refugees in third countries and to show solidarity with third countries of first asylum.

In the course of 2009, the Commission will make proposals on developing an EU resettlement scheme, in which Member States would participate on a voluntary basis, setting common criteria and coordination mechanisms. Cooperation on practical and logistical aspects will lead to more financial and quality effectiveness (organisation of missions, medical and security screening, travel arrangements, preparation and submission of cases by UNHCR). The Commission will cooperate with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, such as UNHCR and NGOs, to discuss the shape and functions of the EU resettlement scheme.

5.2.3. *Facilitating a managed and orderly arrival for those in need to protection*

With the development of comprehensive and more sophisticated border control regimes, the issue of asylum seekers' access to EU territory has increasingly come into focus. Disorderly movements are a significant route to safety in the EU, with human smugglers acting as important facilitators for entry. It is therefore crucial that the Union should focus its efforts on facilitating the managed and orderly arrival on the territory of the Member

States of persons justifiably seeking asylum, with a view to providing legal and safe access to protection, whilst simultaneously deterring human smugglers and traffickers.

To this effect, the Commission will examine ways and mechanisms capable of allowing for the differentiation between persons in need of protection and other categories of migrants *before* they reach the border of potential host States, such as Protected Entry Procedures and a more flexible use of the visa regime, based on protection considerations.

As shown by a Commission's study conducted in 2003, some Member States operate or have experimented in the past with some forms of such mechanisms but they are quantitatively of minor importance. There is room for common action in this area, which should lead to better access to protection while reducing smuggling.

Moreover, the Commission will launch in 2009, in close consultation with the UNHCR, a study, on the merits, appropriateness and feasibility of joint processing of asylum applications outside EU territory. The conclusions of the study will inform the future discussions and policy developments at EU level with a view to improving access to the Union in complementarity with the Common European Asylum System and in compliance with relevant international standards.

6. CONCLUSION

The Commission is fully committed to achieving the ambitious objectives set out in the Hague Programme and in the TFEU by proposing the measures identified in this Policy Plan and monitoring the correct implementation of both existing and new measures.

The following principles will guide the action of the EU in the field of asylum in the coming years:

- **Upholding the Union's humanitarian and protection tradition and ensuring respect of fundamental rights** when implementing the CEAS: ensuring that protection is accessible to those who need it in the face of a rapidly changing world, where migration and the movement of people takes place at a much greater rate than ever before and for a greater variety of reasons;
- **Establishing a level playing field**: the EU should be ambitious and build a system where all asylum seekers will be treated in the same way, with the same high-standard guarantees and procedures, wherever in the EU they make their asylum claim;
- **Enhancing the efficiency of the asylum system**: the CEAS should provide Member States with a series of uniform legal norms and standards, common devices and cooperation mechanisms to secure the availability of high quality protection standards throughout the asylum process, from the moment of the reception of asylum seekers to the full integration of those granted protection, whilst maintaining the integrity of the asylum system by preventing abuse; and
- **Providing solidarity within and outside the Union**: the Union should continue and intensify the provision of support to its Member States in offering protection. The solidarity should equally be expressed towards countries outside the EU in order to enhance their capacity to offer effective protection and durable solutions, whilst ensuring that the Union is ready to take a fair share of responsibility.

ANNEXES

I. Roadmap for the proposed measures

Name of the initiative	Section in Policy Plan	Year when the initiative will be presented		
		2008	2009	2010
Amendments to the Reception Conditions Directive (EC/2003/9)	3.1.	X		
Proposal for the creation of a European Support Office, including asylum expert teams	4. and 5.1.2.	X		
Amendments to the Dublin system (Dublin Regulation (EC/2003/343), Eurodac Regulations (EC/2000/2725 and EC/2002/407))	5.1.1. and 5.1.2.	X		
Evaluation of Regional Protection programmes	5.2.1.	X		
Amendments to the Asylum Procedures Directive (EC/2005/85)	3.2.		X	
Amendments to the Qualification Directive (EC/2004/83)	3.3.		X	
Launch of a study on approximation of national statuses of protection	3.3.		X	
Specific amendment to Eurodac Regulations on access to law enforcement agencies	5.1.1.		X	
Study on improvements to EU financial solidarity programmes, including the European Refugee Fund	5.1.2.		X	
Launch of a study on joint processing of specific caseloads inside the EU	5.1.2.		X	
Proposals to further develop the Regional Protection programmes	5.2.1.		X	
Proposal for the establishment of an EU common resettlement programme	5.2.2.		X	
Examining the possibilities offered by Protected Entry Procedures and launch of a study on joint processing outside the EU	5.2.3.		X	
Establishment of a transfer of protection mechanism	3.3			X

II. Bibliography

The following bibliography contains the full reference of the documents and legislative instruments and proposals quoted in the Policy Plan, together with other documents which are considered of relevance for the issues discussed in the text. It must nevertheless not be considered as exhaustive of the literature/instruments existing in this field.

1. Treaty provisions

Current Treaty provisions (Treaty of Amsterdam)

Article 63 TEC

The Council, acting in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 67, shall, within a period of five years after the entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam, adopt:

1. measures on asylum, in accordance with the Geneva Convention of 28 July 1951 and the Protocol of 31 January 1967 relating to the status of refugees and other relevant treaties, within the following areas:
 - (a) criteria and mechanisms for determining which Member State is responsible for considering an application for asylum submitted by a national of a third country in one of the Member States,
 - (b) minimum standards on the reception of asylum seekers in Member States,
 - (c) minimum standards with respect to the qualification of nationals of third countries as refugees,
 - (d) minimum standards on procedures in Member States for granting or withdrawing refugee status;

2. measures on refugees and displaced persons within the following areas:
 - (a) minimum standards for giving temporary protection to displaced persons from third countries who cannot return to their country of origin and for persons who otherwise need international protection,
 - (b) promoting a balance of effort between Member States in receiving and bearing the consequences of receiving refugees and displaced persons;

Future Treaty provisions (Treaty of Lisbon)

Article 78 TFEU

1. The Union shall develop a common policy on asylum, subsidiary protection and temporary protection with a view to offering appropriate status to any third-country national requiring international protection and ensuring compliance with the principle of *non-refoulement*. This policy must be in accordance with the Geneva Convention of 28 July 1951 and the Protocol of 31 January 1967 relating to the status of refugees, and other relevant treaties.

2. For the purposes of paragraph 1, the European Parliament and the Council, acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure, shall adopt measures for a common European asylum system comprising:

- (a) a uniform status of asylum for nationals of third countries, valid throughout the Union;
- (b) a uniform status of subsidiary protection for nationals of third countries who, without obtaining European asylum, are in need of international protection;
- (c) a common system of temporary protection for displaced persons in the event of a massive inflow;
- (d) common procedures for the granting and withdrawing of uniform asylum or subsidiary protection status;
- (e) criteria and mechanisms for determining which Member State is responsible for considering an application for asylum or subsidiary protection;
- (f) standards concerning the conditions for the reception of applicants for asylum or subsidiary protection;
- (g) partnership and cooperation with third countries for the purpose of managing inflows of people applying for asylum or subsidiary or temporary protection.

3. In the event of one or more Member States being confronted by an emergency situation characterised by a sudden inflow of nationals of third countries, the Council, on a proposal from the Commission, may adopt provisional measures for the benefit of the Member State(s) concerned. It shall act after consulting the European Parliament.

2. Secondary EU legislation

2.1. Adopted Legislation

- 14.05.2008 381/2008/EC: Council Decision establishing a European Migration Network. *Official Journal L 131, 21.5.2008, p. 7-12*
- 11.07.2007 [862/2007/EC: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection and repealing Council Regulation \(EEC\) No 311/76 on the compilation of statistics on foreign workers](#) *Official Journal L 199, 31.07.2007, p. 23–29.*
- 23.05.2007 573/2007/EC Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 May 2007 establishing the **European Refugee Fund** for the period 2008 to 2013 as part of the General programme Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows and repealing Council Decision 2004/904/EC. *Official Journal L 144, 6.6.2007, p. 1–21*
- 05.10.2006 [2006/688/CE: Council Decision of 5 October 2006 on the establishment of a mutual information mechanism concerning Member States' measures in the areas of asylum and immigration](#) *Official Journal L 283, 14.10.2006, p. 40–43.*
- 21.02.2006 [2006/188/EC: Council Decision of 21 February 2006 on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Community and the Kingdom of Denmark extending to Denmark the provisions of Council Regulation \(EC\) No 343/2003 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national and Council Regulation \(EC\) No 2725/2000 concerning the establishment of Eurodac for the comparison of fingerprints for the effective application of the Dublin Convention](#) *Official Journal L 066, 08.03.2006, p. 37–37.*

- 13.12.2005 [Council Directive 2005/85/EC of 1 December 2005 on minimum standards on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status](#) *Official Journal L 326, 13/12/2005 p. 13.*
- 30.09.2004 [Council Directive 2004/83/EC of 29 April 2004 on minimum standards for the qualification and status of third country nationals or stateless persons as refugees or as persons who otherwise need international protection and the content of the protection granted](#) *Official Journal L 304, 30/09/2004 p. 0012 – 0023.*
- 25.02.2003 [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 343/2003 of 18 February 2003 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national](#) *Official Journal L 050, 06/02/2003 p. 0001 – 0010.*
- 06.02.2003 [Council Directive 2003/9/EC of 27 January 2003 laying down minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers](#) *Official Journal L 031, 06/02/2003 p. 0018 – 0025.*
- 05.03.2002 [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 407/2002 of 28 February 2002 laying down certain rules to implement Regulation \(EC\) No 2725/2000 concerning the establishment of "Eurodac" for the comparison of fingerprints for the effective application of the Dublin Convention](#) *Official Journal L 062, 05/03/2002 p. 0001 – 0005.*
- 20.07.2001 [Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof](#) *Official Journal L 212, 07/08/2001 p. 0012 – 0023.*
- 15.12.2000 [Council Regulation \(EC\) No 2725/2000 of 11 December 2000 concerning the establishment of 'Eurodac' for the comparison of fingerprints for the effective application of the Dublin Convention](#) *Official Journal L 316, 15/12/2000 p. 0001 – 0010.*

2.2. Proposed legislation

- 06.06.2007 [COM \(2007\) 298 final](#). Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 2003/109/EC to extend its scope to beneficiaries of international protection

3. Commission Communications

- 26.11.2007 [COM \(2007\) 745 final](#) Report from the Commission to the Council and to the European Parliament on the application of Directive 2003/9/EC of 27 January 2003 laying down minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers
- 06.06.2007 [COM \(2007\) 301 final](#) Green Paper on the future Common European Asylum System
- 06.06.2007 [COM \(2007\) 299 final](#) Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on the evaluation of the Dublin system [{SEC\(2007\) 742}](#)
- 17.02.2006. [COM \(2006\) 67 final](#). Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on strengthened practical cooperation - New structures, new approaches: improving the quality of decision making in the Common European Asylum System [Annexes to the Communication \(SEC/2006/189\)](#)
- 25.1.2006. COM (2006) 26 final. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council - Thematic programme for the cooperation with third countries in the areas of migration and asylum

- 24.11.2005 COM (2005) 597. Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on improved effectiveness, enhanced interoperability and synergies among European databases in the area of Justice and Home Affairs
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4. Studies

- 2004 - Study on The transfer of protection status in the EU, against the background of the common European asylum system and the goal of a uniform status, valid throughout the Union, for those granted asylum. Nina M; Lassen, Leise Egesberg, Joanne van Selm, Eleni Tsolakis, Jeroen Doomernik
- 2003 - Study on the Feasibility Of Processing Asylum Claims Outside the EU Against the Background of the Common European Asylum System and the Goal of a Common Asylum Procedure. G. Noll, J. Fagerlund and F. Liebaut.

III. Statistical data¹

Table 1

New asylum applications in EU, 1987-2007

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	
EU27												313645	380450	406585	424180	421470	344800	276675	234675	197410	222170	EU27
EU15	162775	210745	291645	397025	511185	672385	516705	300290	263655	227835	242845											EU15
BE	5975	4510	8190	12945	15445	17675	26715	14340	11410	12435	11790	21965	35780	42690	24505	18800	13585	12400	12575	8870	11120	BE
DK	2725	4670	4590	5290	4610	13885	14345	6650	5105	5895	5100	5700	6530	10345	12510	5945	4390	3235	2280	1960	2225	DK
DE	57380	103075	121320	193065	256110	438190	322600	127210	127935	117335	104355	98645	94775	78565	88285	71125	50565	35605	28915	21030	19165	DE
GR	6300	9300	6500	4100	2700	2110	860	1105	1280	1640	4375	2950	1530	3085	5500	5665	8180	4470	9050	12265	25115	GR
ES	2500	4515	4075	8645	8140	11710	12645	11990	5680	4730	4975	4935	8405	7925	9490	6310	5765	5365	5050	5295	7195	ES
FR	27670	34350	61420	54815	47380	28870	27565	25960	20415	17405	21415	22375	30905	38745	47290	51085	59770	58545	49735	30750	29160	FR
IE	50	50	40	60	30	40	90	360	420	1180	3880	4625	7725	10940	10325	11635	7485	4265	4305	4240	3935	IE
IT	11000	1300	2240	3570	24490	2590	1320	1830	1760	680	1890	13100	18450	15195	17400	16015	13705	9630	9345	10350	14050	IT
LU	100	45	85	115	240	120	225	260	280	265	435	1710	2930	625	685	1040	1550	1575	800	525	425	LU
NL	13460	7485	13900	21210	21615	20345	35400	52575	29260	22855	34445	45215	39275	43895	32580	18665	13400	9780	12345	14465	7100	NL
AT	11405	15790	21880	22790	27305	16240	4745	5080	5920	6990	6720	13805	20130	18285	30125	39355	32360	24635	22460	13350	11920	AT
PT	180	250	115	60	235	655	2090	615	330	270	250	355	305	225	235	245	115	115	115	130	225	PT
FI	50	65	180	2745	2135	3635	2025	835	850	710	970	1270	3105	3170	1650	3445	3090	3575	3595	2275	1405	FI
SE	18115	19595	30335	29420	27350	84020	37580	18640	9045	5775	9680	12840	11220	16285	23500	33015	31355	23160	17530	24320	36205	SE
UK	5865	5740	16775	38200	73400	32300	28500	32830	43965	29640	32500	46015	71160	80315	71365	103080	60045	40625	30840	28320	27905	UK
CY												225	790	650	1620	950	4405	9675	7715	4540	6770	CY
CZ											2110	4085	7355	8790	18095	8485	11400	5300	3590	2730	1585	CZ
EE											0	25	25	5	10	10	15	10	10	5	15	EE
HU										1260		7120	11500	7800	9555	6410	2400	1600	1610	2115	3420	HU
LV												35	20	5	15	25	5	5	20	10	35	LV
LT											240	160	145	305	425	365	395	165	100	145	125	LT
MT											70	160	255	160	155	350	455	995	1165	1270	1380	MT
PL								600	840	600	3580	3425	3060	4660	4480	5170	6810	7925	5240	4225	7205	PL
SK						85	95	140	360	415	645	505	1320	1555	8150	9745	10300	11395	3550	2850	2640	SK
SI								30	35	35	70	335	745	9245	1510	650	1050	1090	1550	500	370	SI
BG											370	835	1350	1755	2430	2890	1320	985	700	500	815	BG
RO					315	425	930	645	635	585	1425	1235	1665	1365	2280	1000	885	545	485	380	660	RO

Remarks:

Annual total for 2007 for some MS is based on aggregation of monthly figures Jan-Dec.

In following MS UNHCR data for 2007 have been used:

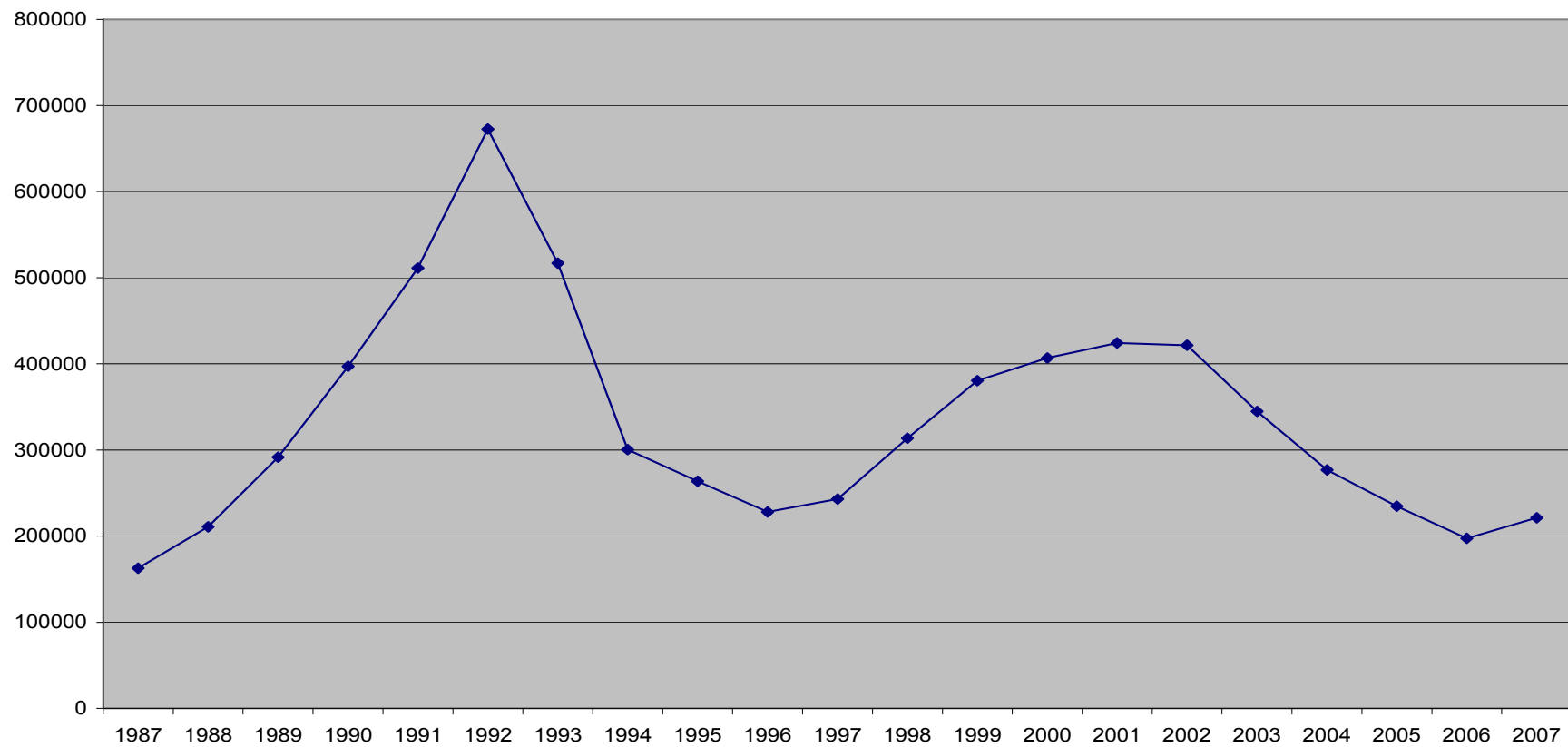
BE

IT

¹ Source of the data: Eurostat, with the exception of table 6

Graph 1

Asylum applications EU 1987-2007



1987-1997: EU15

1998-2007: EU27

Table 2

New asylum applications by citizenship, 2005-2007 (only data disaggregated by citizenship included)

	Cumulated 2005-2007		2005		2006		2007	
	Number	% of total applications	Number	% of total applications	Number	% of total applications	Number	% of total applications
TOTAL	625510	100,0%	234675	100,0%	187065	100,0%	203770	100,0%
Iraq	68535	11,0%	11055	4,7%	19285	10,3%	38195	18,7%
Russia	49140	7,9%	19310	8,2%	13530	7,2%	16300	8,0%
Serbia and Montenegro	34460	5,5%	20880	8,9%	13580	7,3%		
Pakistan	26290	4,2%	6845	2,9%	6315	3,4%	13130	6,4%
Turkey	24270	3,9%	11040	4,7%	7435	4,0%	5795	2,8%
Afghanistan	21540	3,4%	6780	2,9%	7455	4,0%	7305	3,6%
Somalia	15160	2,4%			5930	3,2%	9230	4,5%
Iran	19715	3,2%	7560	3,2%	6655	3,6%	5500	2,7%
China	18820	3,0%	7775	3,3%	5495	2,9%	5550	2,7%
Serbia	11890	1,9%					11890	5,8%
Nigeria			7625	3,2%				
Congo, the Democratic Republic of the			6825	2,9%				
Bangladesh					5955	3,2%	5310	2,6%
Other (non-TOP10)	335690	53,7%	128980	55,0%	95430	51,0%	85565	42,0%

Remarks

Data rounded up to the nearest 5.

Italy - no data for 2006 (breakdown by citizenship) and 2007 available.

Annual total for 2007 for some MS is based on aggregation of monthly figures Jan-Dec.

In following MS only partial statistics for 2007 available:

BE - 2007 Jan-Oct

Table 3

Decisions on asylum applications in EU, 2005-2007

EU27	2005						2006						2007					
	Total decisions	Geneva Convention	Humanitarian status	Other positive decisions	Rejections	Other non-status decisions	Total decisions	Geneva Convention	Humanitarian status	Other positive decisions	Rejections	Other non-status decisions	Total decisions	Geneva Convention	Humanitarian status	Other positive decisions	Rejections	Other non-status decisions
BE	17585	3700	na	na	10345	3545	8345	2230	210	na	5905	na	15135	1855	555	na	12725	na
DK	1325	95	135	na	1100	na	925	110	60	na	755	na	850	70	405	na	375	na
DE	48100	2465	655	na	27450	17530	30760	1350	605	na	17780	11025	28570	7195	675	na	12750	7955
GR	10420	40	85	0	4585	5710	11180	65	130	0	9600	1380	20990	95	75	na	20685	140
ES	5140	235	110	na	4795	na	4065	185	20	na	3860	na	5400	240	5	na	5155	na
FR	51270	4075	110	na	47090	na	37495	2670	185	na	34640	na	29450	3390	145	na	25915	na
IE	5240	455	na	na	4785	na	4245	395	na	na	3845	na	3810	375	na	na	3430	na
IT	20055	940	4355	na	7285	7475	9260	880	4340	na	3680	365	na	na	na	na	na	na
LU	1480	95	205	370	555	255	890	40	290	45	495	25	1035	155	345	40	430	65
NL	19750	965	7855	na	8085	2850	14180	360	3985	na	7520	2320	na	na	na	na	na	na
AT	18585	4530	na	na	5425	8635	15490	4065	na	na	5865	5560	16045	5195	na	na	6645	4205
PT	90	5	10	0	75	0	105	25	5	0	75	0	110	5	20	0	85	0
FI	3455	10	135	425	2515	370	2520	40	100	560	1540	285	2025	65	490	280	1050	140
SE	23920	335	4425	600	15925	2640	46395	680	20765	1295	12680	10970	32470	855	13720	1065	12185	4650
UK	36650	2470	2955	na	27780	3440	27520	2630	2410	na	20430	2050	27630	4480	2325	na	19485	1340
CY	5795	40	120	na	3125	2510	5585	30	140	na	1780	3635	7170	25	185	na	2318	4640
CZ	4375	210	40	80	2635	1410	3020	220	85	60	2195	460	2275	140	250	0	1570	315
EE	15	0	0	5	10	0	5	0	0	0	5	0	15	0	0	0	10	0
HU	1655	95	95	0	855	610	2020	100	100	0	1215	605	2805	170	85	0	1375	1175
LV	10	0	0	0	5	5	15	0	10	0	0	5	20	5	5	0	10	5
LT	95	15	45	0	25	10	130	10	85	0	25	10	145	10	50	na	50	35
MT	1160	35	485	na	580	60	1185	30	520	na	635	na	955	5	620	na	330	na
PL	8840	310	1830	na	2285	4415	7280	420	2045	na	935	3875	6190	150	2870	15	1835	1315
SK	3785	10	15	0	825	2935	2815	5	0	0	860	1945	2970	10	80	0	1180	1695
SI	1785	15	10	0	665	1095	900	0	10	0	570	325	540	0	5	0	270	260
BG	945	10	80	0	380	480	695	10	85	0	215	385	770	15	320	0	245	190
RO	470	40	15	0	415	0	365	45	5	0	270	40	590	125	5	0	340	120

Remarks:

Data rounded up to the nearest 5.

Annual total for 2007 for some MS is based on aggregation of monthly figures Jan-Dec.

No data for 2007 available for Italy and Netherlands.

In following MS only partial statistics for 2007 available:

BE - 2007 Jan-Oct

Table 4

Decisions on asylum applications in EU, percentages, 2005-2007

	2005						2006						2007					
	Total decisions	Geneva Convention	Humanitarian status	Other positive decisions	Rejections	Other non-status decisions	Total decisions	Geneva Convention	Humanitarian status	Other positive decisions	Rejections	Other non-status decisions	Total decisions	Geneva Convention	Humanitarian status	Other positive decisions	Rejections	Other non-status decisions
EU27	100%	7,3%	8,1%	0,5%	61,4%	22,6%	100%	7,0%	15,24%	0,82%	57,9%	19,1%	100%	11,8%	11,2%	0,7%	62,7%	13,6%
BE	100%	21,0%	na	na	58,8%	20,2%	100%	26,7%	2,5%	na	70,8%	na	100%	12,3%	3,7%	na	84,1%	na
DK	100%	7,2%	10,2%	na	83,0%	na	100%	11,9%	6,5%	na	81,6%	na	100%	8,2%	47,6%	na	44,1%	na
DE	100%	5,1%	1,4%	na	57,1%	36,4%	100%	4,4%	2,0%	na	57,8%	35,8%	100%	25,2%	2,4%	na	44,6%	27,8%
GR	100%	0,4%	0,8%	0,0%	44,0%	54,8%	100%	0,6%	1,2%	0,0%	85,9%	12,3%	100%	0,5%	0,4%	na	98,5%	0,7%
ES	100%	4,6%	2,1%	na	93,3%	na	100%	4,6%	0,5%	na	95,0%	na	100%	4,4%	0,1%	na	95,5%	na
FR	100%	7,9%	0,2%	na	91,8%	na	100%	7,1%	0,5%	na	92,4%	na	100%	11,5%	0,5%	na	88,0%	na
IE	100%	8,7%	na	na	91,3%	na	100%	9,3%	na	na	90,6%	na	100%	9,8%	na	na	90,0%	na
IT	100%	4,7%	21,7%	na	36,3%	37,3%	100%	9,5%	46,9%	na	39,7%	3,9%	na	na	na	na	na	na
LU	100%	6,4%	13,9%	25,0%	37,5%	17,2%	100%	4,5%	32,6%	5,1%	55,6%	2,8%	100%	15,0%	33,3%	3,9%	41,5%	6,3%
NL	100%	4,9%	39,8%	na	40,9%	14,4%	100%	2,5%	28,1%	na	53,0%	16,4%	na	na	na	na	na	na
AT	100%	24,4%	na	na	29,2%	46,5%	100%	26,2%	na	na	37,9%	35,9%	100%	32,4%	na	na	41,4%	26,2%
PT	100%	5,6%	11,1%	0,0%	83,3%	0,0%	100%	23,8%	4,8%	0,0%	71,4%	0,0%	100%	4,5%	18,2%	0,0%	77,3%	0,0%
FI	100%	0,3%	3,9%	12,3%	72,8%	10,7%	100%	1,6%	4,0%	22,2%	61,1%	11,3%	100%	3,2%	24,2%	13,8%	51,9%	6,9%
SE	100%	1,4%	18,5%	2,5%	66,6%	11,0%	100%	1,5%	44,8%	2,8%	27,3%	23,6%	100%	2,6%	42,3%	3,3%	37,5%	14,3%
UK	100%	6,7%	8,1%	na	75,8%	9,4%	100%	9,6%	8,8%	na	74,2%	7,4%	100%	16,2%	8,4%	na	70,5%	4,8%
CY	100%	0,7%	2,1%	na	53,9%	43,3%	100%	0,5%	2,5%	na	31,9%	65,1%	100%	0,3%	2,6%	na	32,3%	64,7%
CZ	100%	4,8%	0,9%	1,8%	60,2%	32,2%	100%	7,3%	2,8%	2,0%	72,7%	15,2%	100%	6,2%	11,0%	0,0%	69,0%	13,8%
EE	100%	0,0%	0,0%	33,3%	66,7%	0,0%	100%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	100,0%	0,0%	100%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	66,7%	0,0%
HU	100%	5,7%	5,7%	0,0%	51,7%	36,9%	100%	5,0%	5,0%	0,0%	60,1%	30,0%	100%	6,1%	3,0%	0,0%	49,0%	41,9%
LV	100%	0,0%	0,0%	0,0%	50,0%	50,0%	100%	0,0%	66,7%	0,0%	0,0%	33,3%	100%	25,0%	25,0%	0,0%	50,0%	25,0%
LT	100%	15,8%	47,4%	0,0%	26,3%	10,5%	100%	7,7%	65,4%	0,0%	19,2%	7,7%	100%	6,9%	34,5%	na	34,5%	24,1%
MT	100%	3,0%	41,8%	na	50,0%	5,2%	100%	2,5%	43,9%	na	53,6%	na	100%	0,5%	64,9%	na	34,6%	na
PL	100%	3,5%	20,7%	na	25,8%	49,9%	100%	5,8%	28,1%	na	12,8%	53,2%	100%	2,4%	46,4%	0,2%	29,6%	21,2%
SK	100%	0,3%	0,4%	0,0%	21,8%	77,5%	100%	0,2%	0,0%	0,0%	30,6%	69,1%	100%	0,3%	2,7%	0,0%	39,7%	57,1%
SI	100%	0,8%	0,6%	0,0%	37,3%	61,3%	100%	0,0%	1,1%	0,0%	63,3%	36,1%	100%	0,0%	0,9%	0,0%	50,0%	48,1%
BG	100%	1,1%	8,5%	0,0%	40,2%	50,8%	100%	1,4%	12,2%	0,0%	30,9%	55,4%	100%	1,9%	41,6%	0,0%	31,8%	24,7%
RO	100%	8,5%	3,2%	0,0%	88,3%	0,0%	100%	12,3%	1,4%	0,0%	74,0%	11,0%	100%	21,2%	0,8%	0,0%	57,6%	20,3%

Remarks:

Annual total for 2007 for some MS is based on aggregation of monthly figures Jan-Dec.

No data for 2007 available for Italy and Netherlands.

In following MS only partial statistics for 2007 available:

BE - 2007 Jan-Oct

Table 5

New asylum applications and asylum decisions concerning Iraq, Russia and Somalia citizens, 2007 (only data disaggregated by citizenship included)

	IRAQ							RUSSIA						SOMALIA							
	Asylum applications	Total decisions	Geneva Convention	Humanitarian status	Other positive decisions	Rejections	Other non-status decisions	Asylum applications	Total decisions	Geneva Convention	Humanitarian status	Other positive decisions	Rejections	Other non-status decisions	Asylum applications	Total decisions	Geneva Convention	Humanitarian status	Other positive decisions	Rejections	Other non-status decisions
EU27	38195	31785	6905	11025	160	10870	2815	16300	16535	3835	3200	80	6365	3045	9230	5670	1475	2215	20	1690	260
BE	590	1005	120	265	na	615	na	930	1930	480	0	na	1450	na	65	125	10	25	na	90	na
DK	1070	380	0	335	na	45	na	115	35	0	15	na	15	na	35	10	0	5	na	10	na
DE	4325	7780	5760	35	na	1025	960	770	1210	200	25	na	570	415	120	180	65	50	na	35	30
GR	5475	4030	65	10	0	3950	10	50	35	0	5	0	25	5	175	125	0	0	0	115	5
ES	1580	1040	20	0	na	1020	na	75	115	20	0	na	95	na	145	100	0	0	na	100	na
FR	145	145	45	25	na	75	na	3220	1675	300	0	na	1375	na	45	65	30	0	na	35	na
IE	280	240	100	na	na	140	na	50	45	5	na	na	40	na	140	115	30	na	na	90	na
IT	0	na	na	na	na	na	na	0	na	na	na	na	na	na	0	na	na	na	na	na	na
LU	15	na	na	na	na	na	na	15	na	na	na	na	na	na	0	na	na	na	na	na	na
NL	2005	na	na	na	na	na	na	80	na	na	na	na	na	na	1875	na	na	na	na	na	na
AT	470	405	215	na	na	95	95	2675	3650	2635	na	na	540	475	465	305	190	na	na	40	70
PT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	5	0	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
FI	290	330	20	165	40	100	10	165	185	25	5	0	130	25	80	240	0	225	0	10	0
SE	18560	13610	155	9565	120	2380	1390	790	1000	5	240	65	460	230	3350	1930	115	1415	20	270	110
UK	2075	1675	210	135	na	1265	60	125	150	10	0	na	130	5	1960	1980	975	110	na	860	35
CY	200	225	5	115	na	20	90	60	400	0	0	na	15	385	10	5	5	0	na	0	0
CZ	45	80	15	35	0	10	20	70	185	20	45	0	95	20	5	15	10	5	0	0	0
EE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HU	135	120	65	5	0	5	45	50	50	0	0	0	10	40	100	40	30	0	0	0	10
LV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55	60	0	35	0	20	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MT	5	5	0	5	na	0	na	0	0	0	0	na	0	na	585	380	5	370	na	5	na
PL	20	45	5	15	0	15	5	6670	5440	135	2830	15	1280	1180	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
SK	130	145	0	40	0	20	80	305	340	0	0	0	95	245	10	10	0	10	0	0	0
SI	5	5	0	0	0	5	0	10	5	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BG	530	330	0	275	0	10	40	0	5	0	0	0	5	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
RO	245	190	105	0	0	75	10	5	5	0	0	0	5	0	30	40	10	0	0	30	0

Remarks

Data rounded up to the nearest 5.

EU27 - data for not all MS available.

Italy - no data for 2006 (breakdown by citizenship) and 2007 available.

Luxembourg - no decision data by citizenship available.

Annual total for 2007 for some MS is based on aggregation of monthly figures Jan-Dec.

In following MS only partial statistics for 2007 available:

BE - 2007 Jan-Oct

Table 6

Tab. II.b Refugee population by UNHCR regions				
UNHCR regions	Start-2006	End-2006	Annual change	
			Absolute	%
- Central Africa and Great Lakes	1,193,700	1,119,400	-74,300	-6.2%
- East and Horn of Africa	772,000	852,300	80,300	10.4%
- Southern Africa	228,600	187,800	-40,800	-17.8%
- West Africa	377,200	261,800	-115,400	-30.6%
Total Africa*	2,571,500	2,421,300	-150,200	-5.8%
CASWANAME**	2,716,500	3,811,800	1,095,300	40.3%
Americas	564,300	1,035,900	471,600	83.6%
Asia and Pacific	825,600	875,100	49,500	6.0%
Europe	1,975,300	1,733,700	-241,600	-12.2%
Total	8,653,200	9,877,800	1,224,600	14.2%

* Excluding North Africa.
** Central Asia, South West Asia, North Africa and Middle East.

Source: UNHCR