

Press Release

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EASO presents reports and latest asylum trends at the European Parliament

During today's meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) presented the [EASO Annual Activity Report for 2013](#), the [Annual Report on the situation of asylum in the EU 2013](#), and the [EASO multi-annual work programme 2014 - 2016 "Towards a coherent implementation of the Common European Asylum System"](#). EASO also presented the latest asylum trends for 2014.

Following the presentation of the [EASO Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the EU 2013](#), Dr Visser, EASO Executive Director, also touched upon the latest asylum trends (2014). In this context, Dr Visser stated that in the first eight months of 2014, there was a **28% rise in the number of applications for asylum in the EU compared to the same period last year**. This follows the **30% increase seen in numbers of asylum applications in 2013 compared to 2012**. For the period from January to August 2014, nationals from **Syria, the six Western Balkan States and Eritrea** were the main groups of asylum applicants in the EU+ (EU Member States plus Norway and Switzerland). The numbers of **Syrian** asylum-seekers have increased in absolute and relative terms compared to 2013 and now represent approximately one in every 5 asylum applications made in the EU and are in **the top 3 countries of origin for 19 Member States**. There has been a **substantial increase** in the number of **Eritrean applicants** in recent months. Applications from citizens of the **Russian Federation** have declined significantly since 2013. Since March 2014, **there has also been a significant rise in the number of Ukrainian citizens applying for asylum** in the EU+.

The EASO Executive Director highlighted the main activities of EASO in the context of the implementation of the Common European Asylum System, in particular the activities in 2013 and the first semester of 2014. Amongst other things, he pointed out that in 2013, EASO trained over 2,100 asylum and reception officers. Moreover, in the first semester of 2014 over 1,500 asylum and reception officers have been trained. On operational support, since 2011, EASO has provided support to 6 Member States and has ongoing operational support missions in Greece, Italy, Bulgaria and Cyprus. In 2013 and 2014, EASO further increased its capacity to deal with common Country of Origin Information (COI). EASO now has 7 COI specialist networks (Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Syria, Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Russian Federation). Another key aspect of EASO's work is that of analysing asylum trends and setting up an Early warning and Preparedness system. By using this system, EASO provides a constant informative function, i.e. quarterly asylum report and ad hoc trend analysis, which are published on the EASO website.

In the coming years, EASO shall particularly focus its efforts on supporting Member States' implementation of the asylum acquis following the adoption of the legal instruments of the Common European Asylum System and providing Operational Support to Member States. Moreover, EASO will have a more central role in coordinating capacity building measures through training, practical cooperation activities, Country of Origin Information and quality reports.

The presentation was followed by an EASO information event at the European Parliament. The event aimed at informing the EU staff working at the European Parliament of EASO's main support tools and activities.

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