



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

JUSTICE & HOME AFFAIRS (Supplement) MIGRATION



06.03.2009

ASYLUM AGENCY

[COM \(2009\) 66](#) - Proposal for a **REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL** establishing a European Asylum Support Office.

The Commission proposes to set up a European Asylum Support Office which will have the institutional status of a regulatory agency and will be responsible for promoting and enhancing practical cooperation between Member States on asylum matters and for helping to support the implementation of the common asylum system. The agency will be given responsibility for facilitating and strengthening practical cooperation between Member States on asylum and helping to improve implementation of the common asylum system.

This proposal seeks to respond to the requests of the Council and the European Council within the framework of the Policy Plan on Asylum adopted by the Commission in March 2008, (COM(2008)135), which provides for a moratorium on the creation of new regulatory agencies but excludes from this moratorium the establishment of an agency for asylum.

This proposal is fully in line with the Policy Plan on Asylum adopted by the Commission in June 2008, which is designed to strengthen asylum legislation with the aim of creating an efficient and fair Common European Asylum System for persons seeking international protection and to underpin this legislation by strengthening practical cooperation among Member States on the many aspects of asylum.

The Office will be a body set up by the Communities, as provided for in Article 185 of the Financial Regulation. Much of its funding will therefore come from a heading in the general budget of the European Communities.



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The agency will not have decision-making powers and will engage in support activities that act as an incentive to practical cooperation on asylum, such as recommendations, referral to scientific authority, networking and pooling of good practice, evaluation of the application and implementation of rules, etc.

The main tasks of European asylum support office would be the following:

- facilitate, coordinate and improve cooperation on asylum matters between the EU countries, improving therefore the international protection to asylum seekers;
- assist EU governments in comparing good practices and organising training at EU level in order to develop a more consistent and transparent asylum policy in the EU ;
- coordinate teams of national experts who can be deployed at the request of any EU country facing a heavy influx of refugees;
- provide scientific and technical assistance in cooperation with national authorities and the UN High Commission for Refugees;
- increase practical cooperation on asylum matters between EU and third countries.

European parliament plenary session
9th - 12th March 2009
Mon. 9th : Debate on European Asylum Agency