



Input by civil society to the EASO Annual Report 2016

EASO has started production of the Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the European Union 2016, in line with Article 12 (1) of the EASO Regulation. The report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of important asylum-related developments at EU and national level, and the functioning of all key aspects of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). The report will be finalised by collecting information from EU+ countries, civil-society stakeholders, UNHCR and other relevant sources on main developments in asylum policies and practices of EU+ countries in 2016.

Previous reports can be consulted on EASO's website: <https://www.easo.europa.eu/information-analysis/annual-report>

We would kindly like to ask you to provide your **observations**, - preferably bullet points to facilitate further processing of your input - **on developments in asylum law or practice in 2016 (and early 2017) in the areas listed below, reflecting the usual structure of the report**. Observations may concern national practices of specific EU+ countries or the EU as a whole.

The EASO Annual Report will not describe the national asylum systems in detail but present key developments in 2016, including **improvements and new/remaining concerns**. The topics listed below reflect the structure of chapter 4 of the EASO report on the 'Functioning of the CEAS'. We kindly ask all contributors to provide brief summaries only on those topics/issues that have seen important **improvements/deterioration as well as new concerns or where previous relevant concerns remained in 2016**.

Please bear in mind that the EASO Annual Report is a public document. Therefore, your input should be, whenever possible, supported with references to written sources to ensure transparency. That can be done by providing links to any documents such as position papers, important press releases, studies, comments, input to the other reports, public statements to government programs, etc.

While EASO endeavours to cover all relevant developments and strives to include as many references as possible, the final content of the EASO Annual Report remains bound by its terms of reference and volume. Therefore, while all contributions are gratefully received and recognised, EASO may edit contributions for length and clarity and use the submissions to best serve the objective of the Annual Report: to improve the quality, consistency and effectiveness of the CEAS.

Please provide your input by filling in this document (with attachments if required) and emailing it to ids@easo.europa.eu **AND** consultative-forum@easo.europa.eu **by 20 February 2017**.

Within the areas, please highlight the following **type of information**:

- NEW positive developments; improvements and NEW or remaining matters of concern;
- Changes in policies or practices; transposition of legislation; institutional changes; relevant national jurisprudence.
- Please use the topics listed below as a guide to providing input for each section. **DO NOT** provide information unrelated to relevant new developments.

Name of the contributing stakeholder: Asylum Research Consultancy (ARC)

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1) Access to territory and procedure

2) Access to information and legal assistance

3) Providing interpretation services

4) Dublin procedure

5) Specific procedures (border, accelerated, admissibility)

6) Reception of applicant for international protection:

7) Detention:

8) Procedures at First instance:

9) Procedures at Second Instance:

10) Availability and use of Country of Origin Information:

EASO COI commentaries

Asylum Research Consultancy (ARC) together with the Dutch Council for Refugees (DCR) continued to publish public commentaries in response to the publication of EASO's COI reports. The following were issued on EASO's COI products published in 2016:

- April 2016: [Comments on the EASO Country of Origin Information Reports Afghanistan \(January 2016\) and Somalia \(February 2016\)](#). This commentary sets out our main observations, concerns and recommendations based on an initial reading of the reports, focusing on Chapter 2.1.1 'Kabul City' for the Afghanistan report and Section 2.7 'Benadir-Mogadishu' for the Somalia report.
- October 2016: [Comments on the EASO Country of Origin Information Reports: Pakistan: Security Situation \(July 2016\) and Afghanistan: Recruitment by armed groups \(September 2016\)](#). This commentary sets out our main observations, concerns and recommendations based on an initial reading of the reports, focusing specifically on Chapters 1.4 'State ability to secure law and order', 2.2 'Khyber Pakhtunkhwa', 2.4 'Sindh' and 2.6 'Islamabad Capital Territory' for the Pakistan report.
- January 2017: [Comments on the EASO Country of Origin Information Report on Turkey \(November 2016\)](#). This commentary sets out our main observations, concerns and recommendations based on an initial reading of the report, focusing specifically on chapter '6. The attempted military coup'.

> When listing EASO's publication of COI reports it would be greatly appreciated if reference to these commentaries could be made either in the main body of text or in a footnote.

COI Forum

In 2014 Asylum Research Consultancy (ARC) and the Dutch Council for Refugees (DCR) set-up the '[COI Forum](#)'.

It is a free online tool for all COI researchers and users of COI working in refugee status determination to share publications and ideas on COI research and sources, as well as to develop shared resources. The COI Forum is open to such organisations and individuals, subject to approval by the COI Forum moderators, but is a confidential private discussion group only for the use of its members. It is moderated by ARC and the DCR and part of the ecoi.net community forum.

> When including an update on the 'COI Portal' it would be greatly appreciated if the above information on the 'COI Forum' could be included as it has attracted a number of COI researchers from Member States and civil society alike since its inception and we would like to see it grow and expand its membership.

UK Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration

- In February 2016 the UK Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration issued its findings following an inspection of asylum casework conducted between March – July 2015. The full report can be accessed [here](#).
- In May 2016 the UK Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration issued its inspection report on the reviews carried out by the Independent Advisory Group on Country Information (IAGCI), notably on Iran, Nigeria and Ukraine, including some general findings on the working practices of the IAGCI and the Home Office's Country Policy and Information Team (CPIT). The full report can be accessed [here](#) and the Home Office's response to the inspection report [here](#).

UK Home Office's Country Policy and Information Notes (CPINs)

Following the promulgation of [MST and Others \(national service – risk categories\) Eritrea CG \[2016\] UKUT 00443 \(IAC\)](#) in December 2016, in which the UK Upper Tribunal of the Immigration and Asylum Chamber expressed its "hope that consideration will be given to terminology that maintains a proper demarcation of the role of the executive and judiciary in the area of evaluation of country conditions and risk in the field of international protection" (para. 9), the UK Home Office's 'Country Information and Guidance' reports were renamed to 'Country Policy and Information Notes'.

11) Vulnerable applicants:

12) Content of protection – situation of beneficiaries of protection

13) Return of former applicants for international protection

14) Resettlement and relocation

15) Other relevant developments