



Dirk Van den Bulck (photo) is Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless persons. The Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS) is an independent federal administration acting as the central asylum authority in Belgium. Mr. Van den Bulck was officially appointed in 2004 with a five-year mandate. His mandate was renewed twice and he started his third mandate in December 2014.

During his mandates he guided the CGRS through several reforms of the asylum procedure in Belgium and through several asylum crises. The protection of refugees always remained his key focus and he also holds a clear eye on the quality of the asylum decisions, the efficiency of the organisation and the well-being of his staff. As the Belgian member of the EASO Management Board he is a strong advocate for the realization of the Common European Asylum System.

Throughout his career Dirk Van den Bulck held several positions in the field of asylum and migration. After obtaining a law degree at the Catholic University of Leuven (KUL) in 1988, Dirk Van den Bulck started working as a company lawyer, but quickly chose for more social commitment as a legal expert at the Brussels Centre for Integration *Foyer*. As an Advisor and Deputy Principal Private Secretary at the cabinets of the Ministers of the Interior Johan Vande Lanotte, Louis Tobback and Luc Van den Bossche, he helped shaping the Belgian asylum and migration policy in the 1990s. In 1999 he was appointed as Assessor at the Permanent Appeal Commission for Refugees (the asylum appeal body, later replaced with the Council for Aliens Law Litigation). In July 2002 he was appointed Deputy Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless persons and in September 2003 he became Commissioner General.

