



EASO SPECIAL SUPPORT PLAN TO CYPRUS

- Amendment No 3 -

The EASO Special Support Plan to Cyprus was signed on 5 June 2014 by the Executive Director of EASO and the Minister of Interior of the Republic of Cyprus and amended in 2015 and 2016.

Given the need for an extension of the duration of the Plan and adjusted needs in the scope of the support measures, the amendments (marked in *italics*), as described in Annex I, are hereby agreed.

EASO shall send a copy of the amendment to the Members of the EASO Management Board.

Malta and Cyprus, 28 February 2017.

The Executive Director
of the European Asylum
Support Office

José Carreira

The Minister of Interior
of the Republic of Cyprus

Sokratīs Hasikos



Annex I

This Special Support Plan lays down the conditions and objectives of EASO's specific technical and operational support to Cyprus until 31 January 2018 and sets out the conditions for participation in these specific EASO activities.

The implementation period of the EASO Measures is extended until 31 January 2018.

- A new EASO Measure CY 8: Support with backlog management in the asylum procedure, is added in the Special Support Plan, as follows:

| EASO Measure CY 8: Support with backlog management in the asylum procedure | |
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| Responsible Authorities | Asylum Service |
| Current situation | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>In the end of 2016 the backlog of the Asylum Service consisted of 1633 cases (concerning 2135 persons), compared to 1105 cases (1557 persons) in 2015.</i>2. <i>The Asylum Service currently consists of the following personnel:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>the Head, two coordinators (on reception and asylum procedures), and 13 administrative officers whose tasks are divided as follows:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>8 administrative officers are dealing with the examination of asylum applications. One of them is examining cases with particular vulnerability (e.g. FGM cases) and another officer is examining cases of unaccompanied minors.</i>- <i>1 administrative officer is responsible for the preparation of statistics (national, EASO and Eurostat), the operation of the national asylum database, the coordination of the Immigration Departments of the Police and she is also responsible for the operation of the Reception Centre in Kofinou</i>- <i>1 administrative officer is responsible for legal matters (Case Law, National Refugee Law etc.)</i>- <i>1 administrative officer is the NCP for EASO, contact point for the CY SSP, for the EMN, in relocation related matters and also in the discussions of the new CEAS</i>- <i>1 administrative officer is responsible for the operation of DublinNet, to perform Dublin Interviews, Eurodac etc. She is also participating in the discussions of the Asylum Working Party on the new Eurodac and Dublin Regulations.</i>- <i>1 administrative officer is responsible for Tenders and EU funded projects.</i>- <i>The Asylum Service has been reinforced with 4 private experts providing services for the examination of applications through an AMIF co-funded project.</i> |



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| | 3. <i>In the current circumstances, with the asylum applications steadily rising and the staff currently employed, it is difficult to conclude with the examination of the applications within 6 months, especially taking into consideration that the numbers of unaccompanied minors and vulnerable persons are also on the rise.</i> |
| Objective(s) | <i>Providing assistance to CY in order to manage the backlog of pending cases by deploying ASTs.</i> |
| Pre-conditions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>CY will appoint a Measure Coordinator.</i> - <i>Training on the CY national law and procedure will be provided to the deployed experts by CY and complemented by EASO as necessary.</i> - <i>CY will provide regular updates on the state of play of the backlog in order to optimize resources deployed.</i> |
| EASO support | <p>1. <i>Deployment of MS experts</i></p> <p><i>Deployment of 4 MS experts (preferably Greek-speaking) in order to provide their expertise in dealing with the current backlog:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>one case worker to support the Dublin Unit, including the Dublin interviews</i> - <i>one case worker to support the interviews on the merits of the case of applicants relocated to Cyprus from Greece and Italy</i> - <i>one case worker to support the interviews on the merits of the case of UAMs and vulnerable persons</i> - <i>one case worker to support the interviews of applicants on the merits of the case from Syria.</i> <p><i>The deployed experts will share good practices on backlog management from their MS of origin.</i></p> <p>2. <i>Support in material conditions for deployment of MS experts</i></p> <p><i>EASO is to provide the ICT tools and logistical framework as necessary.</i></p> |
| Implementation | 2017: Q2-Q4 |
| Deliverable(s) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Long term deployment of 4 MS experts.</i> • <i>Backlog is finished/significantly reduced by end of 2017</i> |

- A new EASO Measure CY 9: Contingency assistance in case of mass arrivals, is added in the Special Support Plan, as follows:

| EASO Measure CY 9: Contingency assistance in case of mass arrivals | |
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| Responsible Authorities | <p><i>Asylum Service, Ministry of Interior</i></p> <p><i>Social Welfare Services, Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance</i></p> |

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| Current situation | The recent boat arrivals in Cyprus indicate that Cyprus could become a destination for asylum-seekers. More specifically, the refugees who arrive to Cyprus (the majority is Syrian nationals) claim that Cyprus was their final destination mainly because they already have relatives (more often not close family members) residing in the island. High number of simultaneous arrivals are stretching the limited capacity of the CY authorities for registration, screening and reception. |
| Objective(s) | As a contingency measure, in case of mass arrivals of persons applying for international protection, CY will need to increase its capacity to perform their relevant tasks. EASO will assist CY by deploying ASTs in order to assist registration, screening and reception of asylum-seekers. |
| Pre-conditions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CY will appoint a Measure Coordinator. - Training on the CY national law and procedure will be provided to the deployed experts by CY and complemented by EASO as necessary. - CY will provide regular updates on the state of play of the boat arrivals and support needs in order to optimize resources deployed. |
| EASO support | <p>1. Deployment of MS experts</p> <p>Deployment of MS experts (preferably Greek-speaking):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - support with registration of persons applying for international protection - assistance for screening of persons applying for international protection, including vulnerability screening - supporting the reception and social assistance of the newly arrived - providing assistance to UAMs and other persons with special needs at the asylum procedure and for their reception. <p>2. Support in material conditions for deployment of MS experts</p> <p>EASO is to provide the ICT tools and logistical framework as necessary.</p> |
| Implementation | 2017: Q2-Q4 |
| Deliverable(s) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment of MS experts. • Persons applying for international protection are registered, screened in a timely manner. Adequate procedural and reception assistance is provided for persons with special needs. |