



EASO Newsletters in 2019

Key COI Related Points

17th April 2019

Items of relevance to COI and the work of the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) Consultative Forum as detailed in 2019 EASO newsletters and 2019 COI publications

- Compiled by ARC – [emphasis added]

[EASO Newsletter - Quarter 1 \(January-March\) 2019](#)

EASO Management Board welcomes strengthening of Agency's good governance

[...] Amongst the important decisions taken by the Management Board was the endorsement of a **new Country Guidance on Nigeria**. This publication, which is the second of its type following a similar publication on Afghanistan, represents the joint assessment of the situation in Nigeria by EU+ Member States. The ultimate aim of country guidance publications is to foster convergence in the application of the criteria for qualification for international protection. Furthermore, the meeting also endorsed EASO's new External Action Strategy. [...]

EU asylum figures 2018: Applications return to 2014 levels, decreasing by 10% over previous year

The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) has published its 2018 asylum trends overview. Data shows a lower recognition rate of applications (34% compared to 40% in 2017) and pending cases at less than half of the peak recorded in autumn 2016. While overall applications continued to fall in 2018, citizens from Iran, Turkey, and several visa-liberalised countries lodged more applications than in 2017.

[...] More than one-in-ten of all applicants was a Syrian national, compared to 2015-2016, when Syrians made up more than one-in-four applicants. Afghanistan and Iraq completed the top three countries of origin in 2018. [...]

One-in-three decisions made in 2018 was positive, granting either refugee status or subsidiary protection. This compares to a recognition rate of 40% in 2017. Nationals of Syria, Yemen and Eritrea had the highest recognition rates, whereas the lowest shares of positive decisions were for Georgians and Gambians.

More information can be found at the following links:

[EU+ asylum trends - 2018 overview](#)

[Key findings](#)

[Interactive visualisation](#)

EASO steps up operational support for Cyprus

[...] The new Operating Plan for Italy was signed by Mr. Addou, on behalf of EASO, and the Head of the Department of Public Security, Franco Gabrielli, the Head of the Department of Civil Liberties and Immigration, Gerarda Maria Pantalone, and the Ombudsperson of Children and Adolescents, Filomena Albano, on behalf of Italy.

Under the plan, EASO will maintain the technical and operational assistance provided to Italy since 2013. Notably, in 2019 the Agency will continue to support Italian Authorities in the processing of applications for international protection, as well as enhancing their capacity to absorb the backlog of cases accumulated during the spike in arrivals in recent years. Amongst others, EASO will also continue to support Italy by processing Dublin procedures, **strengthening the Italian Country of Origin Information Unit**, and implementing a system to monitor and manage the reception system. Furthermore, EASO will continue to support the Italian Ombudsperson for Children and Adolescents with capacity building activities for volunteer guardians.

2019 EASO COI publications

COI Report: [Afghanistan Key socio-economic indicators. Focus on Kabul City, Mazar-e Sharif and Herat City](#), April 2019

COI Report: [Iraq - Security situation](#), March 2019

COI: [Iraq - Security situation \(supplement\) - Iraq Body Count - civilian deaths 2012, 2017-2018](#), March 2019

COI Report: [Iraq - Targeting of individuals](#), March 2019

Country Guidance: [Nigeria](#), February 2019

COI Report: [Iraq - Internal mobility](#), February 2019

COI Report: [Iraq - Key socio-economic indicators](#), February 2019