



UNHCR's thematic discussions on the Global Compact on refugees

Discussion two on "Measures to be taken at the onset of large movements of refugees";
Panel three: "How can we support States to identify persons in need of international protection?"

17 October 2017, Geneva

Jose Carreira

Executive Director
EASO

The Executive Director of the European Asylum Support Office, Mr Jose Carreira, started his intervention by presenting the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), and EASO's work; before speaking of the recent situation in Europe and EASO's support role in this context in particular through operational involvement in Italy and Greece.

More specifically, in his intervention, the Executive Director presented the role of EASO and underlined its small size and activities limited to capacity building and information analysis when the 2015 situation started. Since EASO has developed operations in Italy and Greece and more recently also Bulgaria and Cyprus. On EASO's operational role, Mr Carreira specified that since the 2016 EU Turkey Statement, EASO is entrusted to run and improve registration systems and carries out interviews in the hotspots. EASO does not make decisions which remain with the MS and has no role in the appeals process. EASO also provides information/campaigns about rights, avenues, possible outcomes, and ensures that every applicant evaluated on merits. EASO also has a long-standing role on capacity building and extensive tools that are used globally including by UNHCR. EASO also has projects supporting capacity building and supporting asylum systems in North Africa and the Middle East, as well as Western Balkans.

Mr Carreira underlined EASO's role on legal pathways in particular on resettlement assisting MS in their pledges and developing SOPs, and soon private sponsorship programs.

Mr Carreira also expressed his opinion regarding the Global Compact on Refugee process. He noted that the EU institutions, including the EASO, already implement an approach very similar to the comprehensive approach advocated by UNHCR for the Compact, e.g. by cooperating with third parties at regional (Eastern Partnership, Budapest Process, EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa) or bilateral level (notably with Turkey, Russia, Afghanistan, Pakistan), for returns and readmission procedures.) He also

expressed satisfaction that the EU adopted a coordinated approach for the Global Compact on Refugees, with the guidelines of 6th October 2017. Mr Carreira expressed his readiness to support dialogue in Geneva and to assist EU MSs with information and expertise on EU asylum policies.

In his concluding remarks, the Executive Director underlined the broad agreement seen during discussions on registration, processing, sharing of information, use of biometrics; and underlined the EU;'s contribution to the compacts, including possibly through the use of its agencies such as EASO which could contribute to the compacts.