

ACADEMIC NETWORK FOR LEGAL STUDIES ON IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM IN EUROPE

*A NETWORK CREATED WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE
ODYSSEUS PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION*
&
CO-ORDINATED BY THE UNIVERSITÉ LIBRE DE BRUXELLES



PRESENTATION & **Report of activities 2002**

HOW TO CONTACT THE NETWORK

<http://www.ulb.ac.be/assoc/odysseus>

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BELGIUM

PRESENTATION

The academic network for legal studies on immigration and asylum in Europe has been created with the financial support of the Odysseus programme of the European Commission. This network, which was launched at the beginning of 1999, was initiated by Professor Philippe De Bruycker, lecturer and researcher at the Institute of European Studies of the Université Libre de Bruxelles. The network brings together specialists on Aliens Law from Universities of each Member State of the European Union. Its mission is, on the one hand, to carry out legal research and to offer expert opinions, either on its own initiative or on request; on the other hand, to exchange and diffuse as widely as possible information in the field of Immigration and Asylum Law in Europe. The national laws of each Member State of the European Union, as well as Community Law, (in particular the legislative developments which have followed the new provisions, introduced by the Treaty of Amsterdam) are taken into consideration. Our work includes research reports as well as seminars and conferences, the results of which are published. An Internet site presenting the network and providing information on the rights of foreigners in Europe has been set up at the following address: <http://www.ulb.ac.be/assoc/odysseus>. Rather than multiplying new initiatives, the network focuses on giving a European dimension to existing activities by bringing together different persons and institutions active in the area of Immigration and Asylum Law in the EU Member States and by carrying out a comparative study of available information. This work will result in an evaluation of the state of Immigration and Asylum Law in Europe as a whole.

COMPOSITION

At present, the network is made up of academics from the different Member States of the European Union who are considered in their country as well-known specialists on Aliens Law. In addition to a researcher, Nathalie Jouant, and the founder, Philippe de Bruycker (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium), it brings together Jean-Yves CARLIER (Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium), Kay HAILBRONNER (University of Konstanz, Germany), Cristina GORTÁZAR (University Pontificia Comillas of Madrid, Spain), Elspeth GUILD (United Kingdom), François JULIEN-LAFERRIERE (University of Paris-Sud, France), Henri LABAYLE (University of Bayonne, France), François MOYSE (Luxembourg), Bruno NASCIBENE (University of Milan, Italy), John HANDOLL (Ireland), Örjan EDSTRÖM (University of Umea, Sweden), Rudolf FEIK and Ulrike BRANDL (University of Salzburg, Austria), Jens VEDSTED-HANSEN (University of Aarhus, Denmark), Nicholas Sitaropoulos (Greek National Commission for Human Rights) Achilles SKORDAS (University of Athens, Greece), Thomas SPIJKERBOER (University of Amsterdam), Kees GROENENDIJK (University of Nijmegen, the Netherlands), Constanca DIAS URBANO DE SOUSA (University of Lisbon, Portugal), Martin SCHEININ and Eeva NYKANEN (University of Abo, Finland).

The Network maintains close relations with the Directorate-General «Justice and Home Affairs» (DG JHA) of the European Commission and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). It also collaborates with the European Migration Information Network (E.M.I.N.) which is another network financed by the Odysseus programme of the European Commission. Created at the initiative of Professor John Salt of the University College of London, this network is specialised in the area of statistics on asylum and immigration in Europe and intends to provide useful data in this area in order to assist the work of policy-makers and researchers.

ACTIVITIES

COMPARATIVE LEGAL STUDIES

In 1999, the network undertook its first study, which covers regularisation of Illegal Immigrants in the European Union. The eight States, which were the subject of national reports based on a uniform analytical grid to ensure comparability of the results, include: Germany, Belgium, Spain, France, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The results of this work were presented during European conference on 30 June 2000, held at the Université Libre de Bruxelles and were published in 2000 in a book entitled: "The regularisation of illegal immigrants in the European Union". A new comparative study has been carried on during the year 2001 on the Protection of Displaced Persons Complimentary to the Refugee Status in the Member States of the European Union. This research was co-ordinated by Daphné Bouteillet-Paquet, Doctor of Law from the University of Paris I, » in close co-operation with the DG JHA of the European Commission and within the framework of a contract financed by the programme «Research in Brussels of the Region of Brussels-Capital. The results of this research were presented at a conference held at the ULB on November 16-17 2001 organised in co-operation with Professor Kay Hailbronner, University of Konstanz, Germany, with the financial support of the US German Marshall Fund. The proceedings of the Conference have been published in a book entitled "Subsidiary Protection of Refugees in the European Union : Complementing the Geneva Convention ? - La protection subsidiaire des réfugiés dans l'Union européenne : un complément à la Convention de Genève?". These books can be ordered from Bruylant Publishing, 67, rue de la Régence, 1000 Bruxelles, Tel: 0032 (0) 2 512 98 45, Fax: 0032 (0) 2 511 72 02, email: lib.bruylant@pophost.eunet.be. The Network has launched since 2002 comparative studies on the transposition of the first European directives adopted in the field of immigration and asylum and on news on Aliens law in the Member States of the European Union which will be published into a book at the beginning of 2004. This could be the first edition of a future European Yearbook of Immigration and Asylum Law.

EUROPEAN CONGRESS FOR LAWYERS SPECIALISED IN THE AREA OF IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM

In order to make its activities known to a wider audience, the network has decided to organise a regular European Congress with a view of bringing together lawyers specialised in Immigration and Asylum Law in Europe, to exchange ideas and information. The first Congress was held in Brussels the 1st and the 2nd of December 2000 on the topic: "*Which immigration policy for the European Union? An assessment of Maastricht and the prospects offered by Amsterdam*". A second Congress was organised in Lisbon 2002 on the subject of "*The emergence of European Asylum: Amsterdam, Tampere and the future*". A third Congress will be held in the Assemblée Nationale in Paris in June 2004 with the aim to evaluate the process leading to a European Immigration and Asylum policy between Mai 1999-May 2004.

INTERNET FORUM OF RESEARCH ON ALIENS LAW

In order to allow European academics specialised in the fields of Immigration and of Asylum to publicise their work and to explore the potential benefits of collaboration at a European level, pages entitled « European Forum of Research on Foreigners' Rights » have been opened on the network's Internet site. These are intended for research centres, researchers (in particular those having carried out or currently writing a doctoral thesis, including those seeking employment as researchers), authors of specialised publications and directors of teaching programmes specialised in Immigration and Asylum Law in Europe. All those concerned can add to the pages that interest them.

TEACHING PROGRAMME

The Network has extended its activities to teaching : it organises since 2001 a Summer School on European Union Law and Policy in the Field of Immigration and Asylum which is held at the Université Libre de Bruxelles during the two first weeks of July. The aim of the Summer School is to provide its participants with a general understanding of the immigration and asylum policy of the European Union. The classes are conducted by academics of the fifteen member States of the European Union, in collaboration with officials from the European institutions (in particular the Unit Immigration and Asylum of the Directorate General Justice and Home Affairs of the European Commission) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In addition to theory, the participants attend practical seminars on different topics such as the harmonisation of short-term visas, the interpretation of article 1 A of the Geneva Convention or the implementation of the Dublin Convention. The European Summer School is a great success : more than 150 participants (students or law practitioners) from all over the European Union and the acceding countries take part in that event. A third edition will take place during the summer of 2003.

The Network currently envisages to create a specialised teaching and research master programme by way of long distance courses employing new technologies.

OPERATIONAL MATTERS

A CORE COORDINATION TEAM

The Network does not aim at becoming a new institution, but wishes to remain a core team collaborating with correspondents in the Member States of the European Community. In addition to the Founder of the Network, Philippe De Bruycker, the co-ordination team is composed of Nicole Bosmans, Administrative Secretary, and Nathalie Jouant, researcher. The co-ordination team is based at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. The working languages of the Network are French and English.

NEW TECHNOLOGY AS A MEANS OF EXCH@NGE

Owing to financial and geographical constraints, the members of the Network meet only twice or three times a year in Brussels. They do however maintain regular contact using electronic mail. The co-ordination team keeps the members of the Network regularly informed of their progress, requests information on national legislation and incorporates their remarks in the research reports. Anyone who is interested can register on our mailing list via the "contact" page on our Website to be regularly informed about the network's activities by e-mail.

HTTP://WWW.ULB.AC.BE/ASSOC/ODYSSEUS

The construction of an Internet site intended to make the activities of the Network known was undertaken from the very beginning. At the request of the European Commission, its development has become part of the priorities of the Network. It presents the activities of the Network; it includes a presentation of each of its members, the pages « European Research Forum on Foreigners' rights » as well as a page which allows the reader to enter into contact via e-mail with the team of co-ordination. Information web pages on the national legislation of the Member States in the fields of Immigration and Asylum law that progressively opened during the last months of 2001. The establishment of links with the Europa site of the European Commission as well as the web-sites of universities and research centres of the members of the Network ensures the promotion of the site.