

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 2004**

HOW TO CONTACT THE NETWORK

<http://www.ulb.ac.be/assoc/odysseus>
Secretariat : Nicole Bosmans (odysseus@ulb.ac.be)
by telephone: ++ 32 (0)2 650 49 96 (only in the afternoon)
by fax: ++ 32 (0)2 650 45 46
By post:
Université libre de Bruxelles
Odysseus Academic Network
CP 137
Nicole BOSMANS
Avenue Roosevelt 50
1050 Brussels
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 Philippe De Bruycker, Professor at the Institute for European Studies of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (U.L.B.). The Network brings together specialists on Aliens Law from the Member States 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 are taken into consideration. Our work includes research reports as well as seminars and congresses, the results of which are published. An internet site presenting the Network and providing information on Aliens law 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 comparative studies of national rules.

COMPOSITION

At present, the network is made up of mainly academics from the Member States of the European Union who are well-known specialists on Aliens Law in their country. In addition to the founder, Philippe DE BRUYCKER and a researcher Nathalie JOUANT (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 (British Institute for International and Comparative Law) and Ryszard CHOLEWINSKI (Leicester University) for United Kingdom, François JULIEN-LAFERRIERE (University of Paris-Sud) and Henri LABAYLE (University of Bayonne) for France, Olivier LANG and François MOYSE (Luxembourg), Bruno NASCIMBENE (University of Milan, Italy), John HANDOLL (Ireland), Örjan EDSTRÖM (University of Umea) and Gregor NOLL (University of Lund) for Sweden, Rudolf FEIK and Ulrike BRANDL (University of Salzburg) for Austria, Jens VEDSTED-HANSEN (University of Aarhus, Denmark), Achilles SKORDAS (University of Athens) and Nicholas SITAROPOULOS (Greek National Commission for Human Rights) for Greece, Thomas SPIJKERBOER (University of Amsterdam) and Kees GROENENDIJK (Radboud University of Nijmegen) for the Netherlands, Constança DIAS URBANO DE SOUSA (University Autonoma de Lisbon) and Nuno PIÇARRA (Universidade Nova de Lisboa) for Portugal, Martin SCHEININ and Eeva NYKANEN (University of Abo) for Finland, Boldizsar NAGY (University Eötvös Lorand, Budapest), Barbara MIKOLAJCZYK (University of Silesia) for Poland and Lyra VYSOCKIENE (University Mykolas Römeris) for Lithuania. The Network is progressively enlarging to representatives coming from the ten new Member States. Every interested qualified person coming from a Member State which is not yet represented is encouraged to send a letter with a detailed academic CV to our secretariat. The Network maintains close relations with the Directorate-General "Justice, Liberty and Security" (DG JLS) of the European Commission and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

ACTIVITIES

COMPARATIVE LEGAL STUDIES

In 1999, the network undertook its first study, which covers regularisation of Illegal Immigrants in the European Union.. The results were presented during a 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" under the supervision of Philippe De Bruycker. Another comparative study has been carried on during the year 2001 on the Protection of Displaced Persons Complimentary to the Refugee Status This project was co-ordinated by Daphné Bouteillet-Paquet, Phd from the University of Paris I. The results of this research were presented at a conference held on 16-17 November 2001 organised in co-operation with the University of Konstanz 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 ? Following three congresses organised by the Network respectively in Brussels, Lisbon and Paris, three other books entitled respectively "The Emergence of a European Immigration Policy", "The Emergence of a European Asylum Policy" The European Immigration and Asylum Policy: A Critical Assessment five years after Amsterdam" have been published between 2003 and 2005. These books can be ordered from Bruylant Publishing, 67, rue de la Régence, 1000 Brussels, Tel: 0032 (0) 2 5129845, Fax: 0032 (0) 2 5117202, email: info@bruylant.be The Network develops since 2003 comparative studies on the transposition of the first European directives adopted in the field of immigration and asylum and on Aliens law in the Member States of the European Union.

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 yearly a European Congress with a view of bringing together lawyers specialised in Immigration and Asylum Law in Europe. 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 a European Asylum policy: Amsterdam, Tampere and the future*". A third Congress was held in the Assemblée Nationale in Paris on 10 and 11 June 2004 with the aim to evaluate the process leading to a European Immigration and Asylum policy between Mai 1999 and May 2004.

INTERNET FORUM OF RESEARCH ON ALIENS LAW

In order to allow European academics specialised in the fields of Immigration and Asylum to publicise their work and to explore the potential benefits of collaboration at a European level, pages entitled « European Forum of Research on Aliens law» 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. 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 and even further take part in that event. A fifth edition will take place during the summer of 2004. The Network currently envisages to create a specialised master programme in European Immigration and Asylum Law by way of long distance courses based on 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 EXCHANGE: ODYSSEUS@ULB.AC.BE

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 the activities, asks for 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](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 Aliens law » as well as a page which allows the reader to enter into contact via email 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 were 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.