

# ACADEMIC NETWORK FOR LEGAL STUDIES ON IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM IN EUROPE

## *“THE ODYSSEUS NETWORK”*

*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  
&  
perspectives  
2008**

#### **HOW TO CONTACT THE NETWORK**

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## **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. It was initiated in 1999 by Philippe De Bruycker, Professor at the Institute for European Studies of the Université Libre de Bruxelles (U.L.B.). It 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 legal analysis in the field of Immigration and Asylum Law in Europe. The national laws of each Member State of the European Union in a comparative perspective as well as Community Law are taken into consideration. The works include research reports and scientific congresses, the results of which are published, as well as training sessions and educational programmes.

## **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 and co-ordinator, Philippe DE BRUYCKER, it brings together Jean-Yves CARLIER and Sylvie SAROLEA (Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium), Kay HAILBRONNER (University of Konstanz, Germany), Cristina GORTÁZAR and Emiliano GARCIA COSO (University Pontificia Comillas of Madrid, Spain), Elspeth GUILD (British Institute for International and Comparative Law) and Ryszard CHOLEWINSKI (IOM Geneva) for United Kingdom, François JULIEN-LAFERRIERE (University of Paris-Sud) and Henri LABAYLE (University of Bayonne) for France, Olivier LANG and François MOYSE (Lawyers, Luxembourg), Bruno NASCIMBENE (University of Milan, Italy), John HANDOLL (Lawyer, 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 Bristol) for Greece, Thomas SPIJKERBOER (University of Amsterdam) and Kees GROENENDIJK (Radboud University of Nijmegen) for the Netherlands, Constança DIAS URBANO DE SOUSA (University Autonomia 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, Hungary), Barbara MIKOLAJCZYK (University of Silesia) for Poland, Kristine KRUMA (University of Latvia) for Latvia, Martin SKAMLA for Slovakia and Lyra JAKULEVICIENE (University Mykolas Römeris) for Lithuania. Vigdis VEVSTAD who is an independent consultant joined the Network as a representative of Norway because of its participation to the Schengen cooperation). The Network has progressively enlarged to representatives coming from the new Member States and wants to welcome new members from Cyprus, Estonia and Romania in 2008. Every interested qualified person coming from those Member States 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).

## **SPECIALISED LIBRARY**

The Network has through the years gathered hundreds of books on immigration and asylum law, in particular regarding European law. This private library is accessible only to professors, researchers and Phd students. The books cannot be borrowed, but copies can be made at cost price. Interested persons are invited to contact the secretariat for an appointment.

## ACTIVITIES

### COMPARATIVE LEGAL STUDIES AND BOOKS

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 ParisI. The results of this research were presented at a conference held in November 2001 organised in co-operation with the University of Konstanz with the support of the 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. The last book published is about freedom of movement of EU citizens and analyses in depth the new directive 2004/38 and the jurisprudence of the ECJ. The Network develops since 2003 comparative studies on the transposition of the European directives adopted in the field of immigration and asylum and on Aliens law in the Member States of the European Union. The first results on three directives (temporary protection, carrier sanctions and mutual recognition of expulsion decisions) have been published in 2005 under the title "Immigration and Asylum law of the EU: current debates". The Network achieved in 2008 for the European Commission a very large study on the transposition of 10 directives in the field of immigration and asylum by the 27 Member States of the EU. All 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](mailto:info@bruylant.be).

### 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 about every two years 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 1<sup>st</sup> and the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. The fourth Congress was held in Brussels on 26 September 2006 in order to present the first results of the study on reception conditions for asylum seekers in the EU done for the European Commission. The next one which will take place at spring 2009 will deal with the "External dimension of the EU Immigration and Asylum Policy". The Network has also decided to study the question of the interoperability of databases of aliens (SIS, Eurodac, VIS).

## **TEACHING AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

The Network has extended its activities to teaching and training. 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 EU from a legal point of view. 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 DG Justice, Liberty and Security of the European Commission) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The European Summer School appears to be a success: more than 100 participants with diverse background (students, researchers, professors, national and international civil servants, representatives of NGOs, judges, advocates, etc) from all over the European Union and even further take part in that event every year. Moreover, the Network has successfully launched in September 2006 a one year programme "Certificate in European Immigration and Asylum Law" which was welcomed by the European Commission and gathers every year around 20 participants. The Network is also cooperating with different governments of Member States coordinated by Sweden to the creation of a "European Asylum Curricula" (EAC) with the development of three long-distance modules based on the use of new technologies (internet, video).

### **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 Laurence Debauche, consultant. 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 per 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. It presents the activities of the Network; 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. New pages providing an in-depth presentation of the European Immigration and Asylum laws and policy will be opened in 2009. 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.