

**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*



**REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2011  
&  
PERSPECTIVES 2012**

**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, and on the other hand, to exchange and diffuse as widely as possible legal analysis in the field of Immigration and Asylum Law in Europe. In its work the Network takes into consideration the national laws of each Member State of the European Union in a comparative perspective as well as European Law.. 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 mainly of 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) for Belgium, Kay HAILBRONNER (University of Konstanz, Germany), Cristina GORTÁZAR and Emiliano GARCIA COSO (University Pontificia Comillas of Madrid, Spain), Elspeth GUILD (Radboud University of Nijmegen) and Ryszard CHOLEWINSKI (ILO Geneva) for the United Kingdom, Henri LABAYLE (University of Bayonne) for France, Olivier LANG (Lawyer, Luxembourg) for Luxemburg, Bruno NASCIMBENE and Alessia DI PASCALE (University of Milan, Italy) for Italy, John HANDOLL (Lawyer) and Sobhian MULLALLY (University of Cork) for 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) for Denmark, Achilles SKORDAS (University of Bristol) and Costas PAPADIMITRIOU (Lawyer) 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, Eeva NYKANEN (University of Turku) for Finland, Boldizsar NAGY (University Eötvös Lorand, Budapest, Hungary) for Hungary, Barbara MIKOLAJCZYK (University of Silesia) for Poland, Kristine KRUMA (Riga Graduate School) and Juris GROMOVŠ (University of Latvia) for Latvia, , Martin SKAMLA (affiliation?!) for Slovakia and Lyra JAKULEVICIENE (University Mykolas Römeris) for Lithuania, Vera HONUSKOVA (Charles Praha University) and David KOSAR (Masaryk University of Brno) for the Czech Republic, Valeria ILAREVA (University of Sofia, Bulgaria) for Bulgaria, Katerine CAMILLERI and Gabriella PACE (Lawyers) for Malta, Sasa ZAGORC (University of Ljubljana) and Neza KOGOVSEK (Peace Institute) for Slovenia and Nicos TRIMIKLINIOTIS (University of Nicosia) for Cyprus. Vigdis VEVSTAD who is an independent consultant also joined the Network as a representative of Norway because of its participation to the Schengen cooperation. We welcomed as well representatives of Switzerland after their adhesion in the Schengen cooperation: Vincent CHETAİL (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva) and Francesco MAIANI (Swiss Graduate School of Public Administration (IDHEAP, Lausanne). The Network has progressively enlarged to representatives coming from the new Member States and will welcome new members, Estonia and Romania in 2011/2012. Every interested qualified person coming from those Member States that are 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 "Home Affairs" 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, regarding in particular European law. This private library is accessible only to professors, researchers and PhD students. Visitors are not entitled to borrow publications and may only consult works and make copies at cost price on the spot. . 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 on complementary forms of protection for displaced persons was carried out during 2001. . This project was co-ordinated by Dr. Daphné Bouteillet-Paquet, (University of Paris I). 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 in Brussels, Lisbon and Paris, three other books entitled "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. A sixth book published in 2006 concerns freedom of movement of EU citizens and analyses in depth Directive 2004/38 and the jurisprudence of the CJEU . 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). 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, on the basis of which a book entitled "Immigration and Asylum law: current debates" has been published in 2005. The Network undertook in 2008 an extensive study on the transposition of 10 directives in the field of immigration and asylum by the 27 Member States of the EU for the European Commission. In 2009, it undertook a comparative legal study on the identification of vulnerable asylum seekers which is financed by the European Refugee Fund. In 2010, the Network finalised for the LIBE Committee of the European Parliament a study entitled "the Common European Asylum System: evaluation and future prospects". The Network has been selected by the European Parliament for its framework contract regarding both the Area of freedom, security and justice and Asylum. Finally, the Network co-organised with the Belgian Presidency a conference on legal immigration in the EU on 26 November 2010.

### 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 approximately every two years a European Congress with a view to 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> 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 took place in Louvain-la-Neuve and concerned the free movement of persons, the fifth one in Brussels in 2006 to present the results of a study on reception conditions for asylum seekers in the EU done for the European Commission and the sixth one was also held in Brussels in 2009 and focused on the external dimension of the European immigration and asylum policies. The Network organised in 2010 a congress on the European integration policy and will organise its next conference on the European immigration policy. Starting Spring 2012, the Network will organise a yearly conference in order to assess EU developments on immigration and asylum taking place during the previous year.

## **TEACHING AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

The Network has extended its activities to teaching and training. It organises since 2001 a Summer School on the 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 27 member States of the European Union, in collaboration with officials from the European institutions (in particular the Unit Immigration and Asylum of the DG Home Affairs of the European Commission) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The European Summer School is very successful: more than 120 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 beyond take part every year. Moreover, the Network has successfully launched in September 2006 a one year programme, the "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 EU Member States coordinated by Sweden for the creation of a "European Asylum Curricula" (EAC) with the development of long-distance modules based on the use of new technologies (internet).

## **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 academics and practitioners in the Member States of the European Union. In addition to the Founder of the Network, Philippe De Bruycker, the co-ordination team is composed of Nicole Bosmans, (Administrative Secretary), Yves Pascouau (researcher on integration), Laurence Debauche, (consultant) and Lilian Tsourdi (Phd Student). 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 its activities, asks for information on national legislation and incorporates their remarks in the research reports. Persons who wish to receive regular updates on the network's activities can subscribe to our mailing list via the "contact" page on our Website.

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

The Network undertook the setting up of an Internet site intended to make its activities known from the very beginning. The website presents the Network's activities, the profile and activities of each of its members, and includes a « European Research Forum on Aliens law » as well as a page which allows the reader to enter into contact via email with the co-ordination team. New pages providing an in-depth presentation of the European Immigration and Asylum law and policy will be created in the course of 2011/2012. The Network's website is promoted through the "Europa" webpage of the European Commission as well as through the webpages of universities and research centres affiliated with the Network.