

ACADEMIC NETWORK FOR LEGAL STUDIES ON IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM IN EUROPE

AN ODYSSEUS NETWORK FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION



PRESENTATION & Report of activities 1999

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 is financed by the Odysseus programme of the European Commission. This network which began to function at the beginning of 1999 was initiated by Professor Philippe De Bruycker, lecturer and researcher at the Centre of Public Law and at the Institute of European Studies of the *Université libre de Bruxelles*.

The network brings together specialists on the rights of foreigners in the universities of each Member State of the European Union. Its mission is, on the one hand, to carry out, by way of its own initiative or on request, legal research and expert opinions; on the other hand, to exchange and diffuse as widely as possible information in the field of the 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 of the new provisions of the treaty of Amsterdam) are taken into consideration. The work includes research reports as well as seminars or conferences, the results of which are published. An Internet site presenting the network and providing various information on the foreigners' right in Europe was 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 interested in the area of immigration and asylum law in the EU Member States and by gathering information available in a comparative manner, an evaluation is produced at European level.

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 in the foreigners' right. It brings together Jean-Yves CARLIER (Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium), Cristina GORTÁZAR (University Pontificia Comillas of Madrid, Spain), Elspeth GUILD (University of Nijmegen/UK) and Thomas SPIJKERBOER (Nijmegen University, the Netherlands), François JULIEN-LAFERRIERE (University of Paris-Sud, France), Henri LABAYLE (University of Bayonne, France), Bruno NASCIBENE (University of Milan, Italy), Kay HAILBRONNER (University of Konstanz, Germany), John HANDOLL (University of Dublin, Ireland), Manuel MALHEIROS (Luxemburg), Örjan EDSTRÖM (University of Umea, Sweden), Rudolf FEIK (University of Salzburg, Austria), Jens VEDSTED HANSEN (University of Aarhus, Denmark), Constanca DIAS URBANO DE SOUSA (University of Lisbon, Portugal), Martin SCHEININ (University of Abo, Finland), Eeva NYKÄNEN (University of Turku, Finland), and Achilles SKORDAS (University of Athens, Greece). If the budget allows it, the network will also eventually include in 2001 Central and East European countries which are candidates for membership to the European Union.

The Network maintains close relations with the Directorate-General «Justice and Home Affairs» of the European Commission. 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 on the initiative for 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 to assist work of policy-makers and researchers.

ACTIVITIES

COMPARATIVE LEGAL STUDIES

In 1999, the network undertook its first study which covers regularisation of clandestine foreigners in the European Union. The eight states, which were the subject of national reports based on a uniform analysis grid to ensure the comparability of the results, include: Germany, Belgium, Spain, France, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The synthesis report, which draws up a comparative table of the issue comprises, in addition to statistical data, a description of the operations which were implemented, a precise account of the basic criteria and procedures to be followed by the candidates as well as the and the authorities that implement the decisions. The results of this work have been presented during European conference on 30 June 2000, held at the Université libre de Bruxelles and have been published in 2000 in a book called: "The regularisation of illegal immigrants in the European Union" (the book costs 3200 FB and can be ordered from the editors Bruylant, 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 topic of the next study will cover « the protection of displaced persons complimentary to the refugee status o in the Member States of the European Union » and it will be co-ordinated by Daphné Bouteillet-Paquet, Doctor of Law from the University of Paris I, within the framework of a contract financed by the programme Research in Brussels of the Region of Brussels-Capital.

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE 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 regularly a 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 will be held in Brussels at the end of the year 2000 on the topic: « *Which immigration policy for the European Union ? An assessment of Maastricht and the prospects offered by Amsterdam* ». The objective is to evaluate in a prospective way the potential offered by the new legal bases of the treaty of Amsterdam on immigration in the light of the assessment of the provisions adopted within the framework of the third pillar of Maastricht and on the basis of Article 100c of the EC treaty.

INTERNET FORUM OF RESEARCH ON FOREIGNERS' RIGHTS

In order to allow European academics specialised in the field of immigration and of asylum to make themselves better known and to study in greater detail among themselves potential collaboration at European level, pages entitled « European Forum of research on foreigners' rights » were opened on the network's Internet site. These are intended for research centres, researchers (in particular those having carried out or are 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. Persons concerned can fill out themselves the pages which interest them to advertise their work on the site of the network.

POSSIBLE TEACHING PROGRAMMES

The Network will extend its activities to teaching during summer 2001 and will organise a summer school specialised in European and comparative law in the field of immigration and asylum and will also investigate the possibility of creating a specialised teaching programme for postgraduates.

OPERATIONAL MATTERS

A CORE TEAM OF COORDINATION

The Network does not aim to become a new institution, but to remain a core team collaborating with correspondents in the Member States of the European Community. The team of co-ordination is composed only of two researchers who work part-time under the leadership of Philippe de Bruycker, co-ordinator of the Network: this involves Joanna Apap, an *anglophone* of Maltese origin, Doctor of European Law and graduate of Sussex and Daphnée Raffini, a *francophone* of French nationality, a graduate of Community law studies from the Université Pantheon-Sorbonne in Paris. The team of co-ordination is based at the Centre of Public Law of 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 considerations, the members of the Network meet only twice a year in Brussels. Regular contacts are ensured among themselves by means of electronic mail. The team of co-ordination keeps the members of the network regularly informed of their work progress, requests information on national legislation and incorporates their remarks in the research reports.

[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. The site presents the activities of the Network; it includes a presentation of each of its members; it provides information about foreigners' rights (national legislation, bibliographical indications, etc.); the pages « European Research Forum on Foreigners' rights » as well as a page which allows the reader to enter into contact via electronic mail with the team of co-ordination.

The promotion of the site is ensured by 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. The development prospects for the site are numerous. If the desired increase in the budget at the disposal of the network is confirmed for the future, the site could include eventually include a database on national legislation of the Member States in the of immigration and asylum law.