

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

*AN ODYSSEUS NETWORK FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
&  
CO-ORDINATED BY UNIVERSITE LIBRE DE BRUXELLES*



## **PRESENTATION & Report of activities 2000**

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

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

[debruyck@ulb.ac.be](mailto:debruyck@ulb.ac.be) (Philippe de BRUYCKER, Co-ordinator of the network)

[odysseus@ulb.ac.be](mailto:odysseus@ulb.ac.be) (Nicole BOSMANS, network secretary and francophone contact person)

by telephone: ++ 32 (0) 2 650 49 96

by fax: ++ 32 (0) 2 650 45 46

By post:

Université Libre de Bruxelles

Odysseus academic network

For the attention of Philippe DE BRUYCKER

C.P.137

Avenue Roosevelt 50

1050 Brussels

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 Law Faculty and at the Institute of European Studies of the *Université Libre de Bruxelles*.

The network brings together specialists on the 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 decided by the Treaty of Amsterdam) are taken into consideration. The 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 interested on the area of Immigration and Asylum Law in the EU Member States and by carrying out a comparative study of the 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 the Aliens Law. It brings together Philippe de Bruycker (Université Libre de Bruxelles) the co-ordinator, 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), Manuel MALHEIROS (Luxembourg) Bruno NASCIBENE (University of Milan, Italy), John HANDOLL (Ireland), Örjan EDSTRÖM (University of Umea, Sweden), Rudolf FEIK (University of Salzburg, Austria), Jens VEDSTED HANSEN (University of Aarhus, Denmark), Achilles SKORDAS (University of Athens, Greece), Thomas SPIJKERBOER and Kees GROENENDIJK (Nijmegen University, the Netherlands), Constanca DIAS URBANO DE SOUSA (University of Lisbon, Portugal), Martin SCHEININ and Eeva NYKANEN (University of Abo, Finland). If the budget allows it, the network will possibly also include in 2001 Central and Eastern 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 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 to assist 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" (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 next study will look at « **The Protection of Displaced Persons Complimentary to the Refugee Status 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» and in close cooperation with the DG JAI of the European Commission, which is preparing directives on this question during 2001.

### **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 regularly a European congress with a view to bringing together lawyers specialised in Immigration and Asylum Law in Europe to exchange ideas and information. 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* ». The objective was to evaluate prospectively the potential offered by the new legal bases for immigration of the Treaty of Amsterdam. This evaluation took into consideration the assessment of the provisions adopted within the framework of the third pillar of Maastricht. The Conference's proceedings will be published before summer 2001 and will shortly be announced on the network's website. We are considering holding the second Congress in 2002 on the subject of "*Asylum policy of the European Union*".

### **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 to advertise their thoughts and findings on the network website.

### **TEACHING PROGRAMMES**

The Network will extend its activities to teaching and will organise in Brussels during the first two weeks of July 2001 a summer school specialised in European and Comparative Law in the field of Immigration and Asylum (check our website for details). Further to this experience, the network will also investigate the possibility of creating a specialised teaching and research programme for postgraduates, students and professionals.

## 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 co-ordination team is composed of Nicole Bosmans, who is the administrative secretary, and of two researchers who work full-time under the leadership of Philippe de Bruycker, co-ordinator of the Network: this involves Daphnée Bouteillet, Doctor of Law from the Université Paris I and Claudia Pisanello, Graduate of Law from Université de Bourgogne and Università degli studi di Bologna. 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](mailto: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 at 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. Claudia Pisanello manages the site. 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. Thanks to additional aid from the DG Education and Culture of the European Commission, the site will include information web pages on national legislation of the Member States in the fields of Immigration and Asylum law that will be progressively opened during the first six 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.