

Input by civil society organisations to the Asylum Report 2024

Dear Colleagues,

The production of the *Asylum Report 2024* is currently underway. The annual <u>Asylum Report series</u> presents a comprehensive overview of developments in the field of asylum at the regional and national levels.

The report includes information and perspectives from various stakeholders, including experts from EU+ countries, civil society organisations, researchers and UNHCR. To this end, we invite you, our partners from civil society, academia and research institutions, to share with us your reporting on developments in asylum law, policies or practices in 2023 by topic as presented in the online survey ('Part A' of the form).

We also invite you to share with us any publications your organisation has produced throughout 2023 on issues related to asylum in EU+ countries. These may be reports, articles, recommendations to national authorities or EU institutions, open letters and analytical outputs ('Part B' of the form).

Your input can cover information for a specific EU+ country or the EU as a whole. You can complete all or only some of the sections.

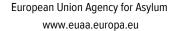
Please note that the Asylum Report does not seek to describe national systems in detail but rather to present <u>key developments of the past year</u>, including improvements and challenges which remain.

All submissions are publicly accessible. For transparency, contributions will be published on the EUAA webpage. For reference, contributions to the 2023 Asylum Report by civil society organisations can be accessed here, under 'Acknowledgements'. All contributions should be appropriately referenced. You may include links to supporting material, such as analytical studies, articles, reports, websites, press releases or position papers. If your organisation does not produce any publications, please make reference to other published materials, such as joint statements issued with other organisations. Some sources of information may be in a language other than English. In this case, please cite the original language and, if possible, provide one to two sentences describing the key messages in English.

The content of the Asylum Report is subject to terms of reference and volume limitations. Contributions from civil society organisations feed into EUAA's work in multiple ways and inform reports and analyses beyond the Asylum Report.

Your input matters to us and will be much appreciated!

Please submit your contribution to the Asylum Report 2024 by Thursday, 30 November 2023.





Instructions

Before completing the survey, please review the list of topics and types of information that should be included in your submission.

For each response, only include the following type of information:

Part A:

- ✓ New developments and improvements in 2023 and new or remaining challenges;
- ✓ Changes in policies or practices, transposition of legislation or institutional changes during 2023;
- ✓ Across the different thematic sections feel free to make reference to issues related to the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive at national level.

Part B:

√ New publications your organisation produced in 2023

Please ensure that your responses remain within the scope of each section. <u>Do not include information that goes beyond the thematic focus of each section or is not related to recent developments.</u>

PART A: Contributions by topic

 Access to territory and access to the asylum procedure (including first arrival to territory and registration, arrival at the border, application of the non-refoulement principle, the right to first response (shelter, food, medical treatment) and issues regarding border guards)

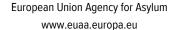
French AIDA report, access to territory section, written by Forum réfugiés :

<u>Access to the territory and push backs - Asylum Information Database | European Council on Refugees and Exiles (asylumineurope.org) (EN)</u>

In short, since 2015, France reestablished internal border controls. They are justified by 'new terrorist threats, organised criminality and activity of organised groups of smugglers, risk of arrival of persons who could pose a threat among the flow of refugees, irregular migration, secondary movements, and the situation at the external border (Ukraine war)'.

Moreover, in November 2022, a new agreement was signed between the UK and France related to Channel crossings following many other bilateral agreements signed since 2014. The 2022 agreement, according to which French coastguards must stop crossings in exchange of a financial support, is still in force.

Furthermore, reports of people being detained or refused entry without their protection needs being taken into account at the Italian border persist, including unaccompanied children. Some





illegal practices are also regularly observed at the Spanish border: <u>Frontière franco-espagnole</u>: la France viole les droits des personnes exilées - Amnesty International France (FR)

2. Access to information and legal assistance (including counselling and representation)

French AIDA report, Provision of information on the procedure, written by Forum réfugiés: https://asylumineurope.org/reports/country/france/asylum-procedure/information-asylum-seekers-and-access-ngos-and-unhcr/provision-information-procedure/ (EN)

Information has been compiled under a general "Guide for asylum seekers in France" (guide du demandeur d'asile en France). The guide is supposed to be provided by the Prefecture, but there is no information as to whether this is effectively done in practice. The guide was updated in September 2020 and is available in French and 30 other languages. From the point of view of stakeholders supporting asylum seekers, even though this guide is a good initiative, it appears that most asylum seekers cannot read or do not understand the meaning of the guide.

In the waiting zones at the border, Forum réfugiés notes a serious lack of information on the possibility of requesting admission to French territory on asylum grounds.

In addition, as the telephone in certain waiting zones is not free of charge, contact with NGOs, or even UNHCR, is not easy. Several decisions by the Courts of Appeal have highlighted the irregularity of the administrative detention procedure in a waiting zone, due to the restrictions placed on exercising the right to communicate with a lawyer or any person of one's choice.

3. Provision of interpretation services (e.g. introduction of innovative methods for interpretation, increase/decrease in the number of languages available, change in qualifications required for interpreters)

French AIDA report, Regular procedure, written by Forum réfugiés: https://asylumineurope.org/reports/country/france/asylum-procedure/procedures/regular-procedure/ (EN)

According to some stakeholders, the quality of interpretation can vary significantly. Some asylum seekers have reported that translations are too simplified (e.g. approximate translations or not in line with their answers) or carried out with inappropriate behaviors (e.g. inattentive interpreters or interpreters taking the liberty to make personal reflections or laughing with the protection officer). Moreover, OFPRA's (French office for the protection of refugees and stateless persons) protection officers may sometimes act as interpreters themselves. Some asylum seekers report difficulties to open up to a person who speaks the language of the country involved in the alleged persecution. Nevertheless, some advantages have also been reported, such as demonstrating a particular interest for the region of origin.



4. Dublin procedures (including the organisational framework, practical developments, suspension of transfers to selected countries, detention in the framework of Dublin procedures)

French AIDA report, Dublin procedures, written by Forum réfugiés: https://asylumineurope.org/reports/country/france/asylum-procedure/procedures/dublin/ (EN)

Dublin statistics: 2022

Outgoing procedure			Incoming procedure		
	Requests	Transfers		Requests	Transfers
Total	46,488	3,311	Total	10,980	1,453
Italy	10,184	745	Germany	5,361	618
Austria	9,567	286	Belgium	2,140	137
Spain	6,396	841	Netherlands	835	146
Germany	5,769	933	Switzerland	673	210
Bulgaria	3,519	35	Italy	546	19

Source: Eurostat as of 4 May 2023

Detailed statistics on the application of the Dublin Regulation are not made available by the authorities prior to their publication on the Eurostat database.

It is difficult to know how the discretionary clauses are applied, as recent information and data is missing on the matter.

The regionalisation plan creates difficulties for asylum seekers who have no means of travelling to the competent Prefecture after receiving a Dublin notice document, as missing an appointment leads to the withdrawal of reception conditions.

The law provides for the possibility of notifying a house arrest to asylum seekers during the procedure of determination of the responsible Member State. Since 20 March 2018, detention can also be ordered.

People under Dublin procedures can receive a place in an accommodation center for asylum seekers (there are different types).

The asylum seeker knows when a take charge or a take back procedure has been initiated, due to information provided on the back of their Dublin notice, which is translated into the language of the asylum seeker. There is, however, no information about the country to which a request has been sent, nor on the criteria that have led to this decision.

In practice, the elements taken into account to determine the Member State responsible can vary from one Prefecture to another, but it has been observed that the taking of fingerprints (and therefore the identification of another responsible State) always takes precedence over the application of the other criteria.



In practice, many asylum seekers do not seem to be really informed of the details of the procedure after their interview.

The modalities put in place to arrange transfers can vary from one Prefecture to another.

There is a specific interview in the Dublin procedure in France. Difficulties arise from the fact that this interview is not always conducted in practice, even though the instruction of the Ministry of Interior of 19 July 2016 recalls that interviews must be systematically conducted, not only in cases of a Eurodac 'hit'.

During the appointment, which takes place in the Prefecture (therefore not in offices guaranteeing confidentiality), questions are asked about civil status, relatives of the applicant, modes of entry into French territory, countries through which the applicant possibly travelled prior to their asylum application, etc. Applicants have the possibility to mention the presence of family members residing in another Member State. Some stakeholders have reported that no questions were asked about family members during the interview.

A form must be filled in by the applicant, in French, during the appointment. Those appointments are not recorded. Most of the time, the asylum applicant receives a copy of the interview form.

In practice, the short time limit for introducing an appeal may prevent asylum seekers who are not accompanied from introducing their appeal on time. Several Prefectures (e.g. in Eure) tend to notify the transfer with a house arrest measure on a Friday, to prevent the asylum seeker from finding legal assistance during the weekend, and transfer him or her 48 hours later. In these frequent cases, there is *de facto* no effective appeal for those people.

Support and assistance to Dublin returnees remain complicated.

The returnees have to reach the Prefecture on their own as no organization or official service meet them. Prefectures also work very differently in this case.

5. Special procedures (including border procedures, procedures in transit zones, accelerated procedures, admissibility procedures, prioritised procedures or any special procedure for selected caseloads)

French AIDA report, Admissibility procedure, written by Forum réfugiés: https://asylumineurope.org/reports/country/france/asylum-procedure/procedures/admissibility-procedure/ (EN)

French AIDA report, Border procedure, written by Forum réfugiés: https://asylumineurope.org/reports/country/france/asylum-procedure/procedures/border-procedure-border-and-transit-zones/ (EN)



For persons held in waiting zones after arriving in train stations, port or airports, in theory, the asylum grounds and the merit of the application should not be examined by OFPRA at this stage, but only once the applicant is granted access to the territory and their claim has been channeled into the regular or accelerated procedure. However, in practice, the assessment usually covers the verification of the credibility of the account; interview reports contain comments on stereotypical, imprecise or incoherent accounts on matters such as the sexual orientation of the applicant, with a lack of written proof. This practice of *de facto* examining the request on the merits is extremely problematic.

The asylum application must be considered and the Border Police has to make a statement detailing the request for admission on the basis of an asylum claim. As mentioned in <u>Access to the Territory</u>, however, cases documented in waiting zones such as Beauvais suggest that the Border Police does not always comply with this obligation.

In practice, there have been cases where the Border Police has asked questions going beyond collecting basic information, relating to the merits of the application for international protection or cases where it indicated to the applicant that his/her asylum claim had low chances of success.

Remote interviews are sometimes carried out in inadequate rooms where other persons may be present or where there is a disturbing background noise.

When carried out remotely, the quality of the interpretation services seems to raise concerns.

The asylum seeker has very few resources to write an appeal on his own; the request must be lodged to the competent court within 48 hours of notification of the decision of the Minister of the Interior, without extension on weekends; and the appeal must be written in French and sufficiently motivated in fact and in law (otherwise, the appeal can be rejected without a hearing).

French AIDA report, Accelerated procedure, written by Forum réfugiés: https://asylumineurope.org/reports/country/france/asylum-procedure/procedures/accelerated-procedure/ (EN)

Many data are lacking.

6. Reception of applicants for international protection (including information on reception capacities – increase/decrease/stable, material reception conditions – housing, food, clothing and financial support, contingency planning in reception, access to the labour market and vocational training, medical care, schooling and education, residence and freedom of movement)



French AIDA report, overview of the main changes, see "reception conditions", written by Forum réfugiés: Overview of the main changes since the previous report update - Asylum Information Database | European Council on Refugees and Exiles (asylumineurope.org) (EN)

To sum up, out of the 142,940 asylum seekers with applications pending at the end of 2022 (according to Eurostat), only 100,598 persons benefitted from reception conditions according to the French reception authority "OFII", meaning over 40,000 asylum seekers do not access any reception conditions (accommodation, allowance, etc.) in France. The reasons are multiple. It may be because they do not accept being transferred to another region (out of the Parisian region).

Accommodation places are missing, and there is a lack of access to available places. There is no fluidity. It was one of the several points condemned by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in its latest appraisal of France published in December 2022.

When an asylum seeker cannot obtain a place in an accommodation center for asylum seekers (for various reasons: no places, no right to), he or she can only turn to emergency shelters. However, those emergency shelter places (for all people without a roof) are also missing. Because those shelters are saturated as well, many end up in the streets.

Furthermore, more places for victims of trafficking are needed, there are only 300 places for women victims of violence, in around 100 centers, in France).

In Calais, despite the regular dismantlement operations, as of January 2023, there were still about 800 migrants living in and around Calais in makeshift camps. In 2022 and early 2023, the authorities attempted to limit the distribution of water and food.

Regarding access to the labor market, asylum seekers still need to wait 6 months and to obtain a work permit (an employer has to be involved). Some unaccompanied minors do not wish to apply for asylum for this reason.

Access to healthcare is still a challenge before 3 months of residence, because access to the universal healthcare protection is not possible before, and asylum seeker's mental health is not a governmental priority: <u>Health care - Asylum Information Database | European Council on Refugees and Exiles (asylumineurope.org) (EN)</u>

7. Detention of applicants for international protection (including detention capacity – increase/decrease/stable, practices regarding detention, grounds for detention, alternatives to detention, time limit for detention)

French AIDA report, overview of the main changes, see "detention of asylum seekers", written by Forum réfugiés: Overview of the main changes since the previous report update - Asylum Information Database | European Council on Refugees and Exiles (asylumineurope.org) (EN)



In 2022 (latest data), 657 third country nationals lodged a first asylum application while in administrative detention, i.e. less than 2% of persons administratively detained.

In 2023, France was again condemned by the European Court of Human Rights for detaining children in conditions contrary to article 3 ECHR, the prohibition of inhumane and degrading treatment (length of detention too long and/or very young children and/or unsuitable place of detention). It marks the 9th condemnation of France for detention of migrant children since 2012.

In the context of borders controls with Italy, the border police continued to detain newly arrived asylum seekers. In 2023, the CJEU reminded the EU obligations in the framework of a preliminary ruling: https://www.gisti.org/spip.php?article7130 (FR)

8. Procedures at first instance (including relevant changes in: the authority in charge, organisation of the process, interviews, evidence assessment, determination of international protection status, decision-making, timeframes, case management – including backlog management)

French AIDA report, Regular procedure, written by Forum réfugiés: https://asylumineurope.org/reports/country/france/asylum-procedure/procedures/regular-procedure/ (EN)

OFPRA staff keeps on growing to reduce the backlog of pending cases. 2023 data are not available.

9. Procedures at second instance (including organisation of the process, hearings, written procedures, timeframes, case management – including backlog management)

French AIDA report, Regular procedure, written by Forum réfugiés: https://asylumineurope.org/reports/country/france/asylum-procedure/procedures/regular-procedure/ (EN)

2023 data are not available.

10. Availability and use of country of origin information (including organisation, methodology, products, databases, fact-finding missions, cooperation between stakeholders)

No novelties to our knowledge.

Information can be found here: https://www.ofpra.gouv.fr/publications/publications-pays (FR)



11. Issues of statelessness in the context of asylum (including identification and registration)

In the framework of an asylum procedure, a stateless person may obtain a stateless-refugee status. To our knowledge, the main recurrent issues concern stateless people that do not ask for asylum, because they do not get reception conditions and a residence permit is not automatically granted in the framework of a statelessness determination procedure (they might therefore be detained): https://index.statelessness.eu/country/france, written by Forum réfugiés (EN)

12. Vulnerable applicants (including definitions, special reception facilities, identification mechanisms/referrals, procedural standards, provision of information, age assessment, legal guardianship and foster care for unaccompanied and separated children)

French AIDA report, Guarantees for vulnerable groups, written by Forum réfugiés: https://asylumineurope.org/reports/country/france/asylum-procedure/guarantees-vulnerable-groups/ (EN)

Vulnerabilities were not fully taken into account in the national plan for the reception of asylum seekers and the integration of refugees for 2021-2023. Special housing options lack.

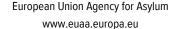
The French Immigration and Integration Office (OFII) assesses vulnerabilities and offer the adequate support thanks to a verbal questionnaire. You can find the questionnaire below:

Arrêté du 23 octobre 2015 relatif au questionnaire de détection des vulnérabilités des demandeurs d'asile prévu à l'article L. 744-6 du code de l'entrée et du séjour des étrangers et du droit d'asile - Légifrance (legifrance.gouv.fr) (FR) You may see that it is quite limited. There is, for instance, nothing on trafficking. Furthermore, the interview is rapid and does not allow the creation of a relationship of trust.

It is also worth noting that the exit from the dematerialized procedure is possible for vulnerable people, but exceptional.

Finally, in 2023, the UN Committee of the rights of the Child denounced some shortcomings of the current 'social evaluation' procedure applied in France: CRC, Views adopted by the Committee under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, concerning communication No. 130/2020*, 6 March 2023, https://bit.ly/40Sm2XS (EN).

13. Content of protection (including access to social security, social assistance, health care, housing and other basic services; integration into the labour market; measures to enhance language skills; measures to improve attainment in schooling and/or the education system and/or vocational training)





French AIDA report, Content of the international protection, written by Forum réfugiés: https://asylumineurope.org/reports/country/france/content-international-protection/ (EN)

Persisting issues are that OFPRA is struggling issuing documentation, and that long-term residence permit is pretty unknown.

Regarding family reunification, it is limited to close family and beneficiaries and their family members face difficulties in gathering the documentation proving their family ties (which adds to the difficulties related to the complexity of the visa form). In case of traditional or religious unions, they do not have any certificate of the celebration and cannot prove they are married or partners. They must then prove a stable and durable relationship, which requires much more documents. The same problems have been identified concerning birth certificates. Such documentation does not even exist in some countries and the delays for being issued a visa in order to come to France can be very long.

In 2022, the government introduced a new global program, named AGIR. This program was influenced in large part by the ACCELAIR program of Forum refugiés. It aims to provide global support for refugee integration concerning housing, employment and benefits. The deployment of the program began in 2022 in twenty-seven departments. It should continue in twenty-five new departments in 2023 before being generalized to the entire national territory in 2024.

Ministry of Interior, 15 december 2021, "Lancement d'AGIR": https://bit.ly/3CvZykO (FR)

Despite several measures, a high number of status holders leave reception centers with nowhere to go. Many live in the streets or in camps. In Paris, amongst thousands of migrants living in camps that are regularly dismantled, 15 to 20% are refugees.

Concerning employment, like in many countries, language is still the first obstacle. Even if the law provides that the French State provides French classes, the current 400 hours of classes are rarely sufficient for beneficiaries to obtain an adequate command of the language in order to get a job. Moreover, in the countryside, they have difficulties because they cannot afford to buy a vehicle to go to work. There is also a lack of recognition of their national diploma, and there is a general lack of daycare places in France.

14. Return of former applicants for international protection

Order of 9 October 2023 on return assistance and reintegration: https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000048186325 (FR)



→ Financial and administrative help.

If voluntary return is not an option, a forced return procedure starts with a placement in an administrative retention center. See our annual report on retention: https://www.forumrefugies.org/s-informer/publications/rapports/1210-rapport-annuel-sur-la-retention-administrative-2022 (FR)

The enforcement rate of decisions remains low and a significant proportion of people with negative decisions remain in an irregular situation in France.

15. Resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes (including EU Joint Resettlement Programme, national resettlement programme (UNHCR), National Humanitarian Admission Programme, private sponsorship programmes/schemes and ad hoc special programmes)

Because of the Covid-19 pandemic and then the arrivals of Ukrainians, and the engagements in the framework of the voluntary solidarity mechanism, the objective of EU resettlements for 2023 stayed at 3 000 (5 000 in the past).

Persisting issues are: lack of information pre-departure, both for beneficiaries and stakeholders; difficulties finding accommodations; and the short support (only 12 months).

France has also an agreement with UNHCR to resettle around 100 people per year. The main issue regarding this type of resettlement is the need to go to Office for the Protection of Refugees (OFPRA), even though the protection need has been identified.

Since 2017, there is a humanitarian corridor from Lebanon (397 people supported since the beginning), and, since 2019, a university corridor (17 new students in 2023): https://fep.asso.fr/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Article-Situation-Liban-Sept-2023-1.pdf and https://fep.asso.fr/2023/09/au-liban-les-couloirs-humanitaires-lune-des-seules-voies-legales-pour-les-refugies-syriens/ (FR)
https://www.unhcr.org/fr-fr/nos-activites/activites-en-france/univr-couloir-universitaire-en-france (FR)

16. Relocation (ad hoc, emergency relocation; developments in activities organised under national schemes or on a bilateral basis)

We only know, thanks to Euronews, that although over 8000 relocation places were pledged in the temporary and voluntary solidarity mechanism, by June 2023, just one year later, only a few hundred people were relocated: https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2022/11/15/eucountries-have-relocated-just-117-asylum-seekers-out-of-8000-pledges (EN)

We get information thanks to media such as Euronews or Statewatch:



https://www.statewatch.org/media/3711/eu-com-solidarity-platform-pact-vsm-op-conclusions-1-12-22.pdf (EN)

https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2023/02/08/only-435-asylum-seekers-have-been-relocated-across-the-eu-since-june-under-a-new-voluntary (EN)

17. National jurisprudence on international protection in 2023 (please include a link to the relevant case law and/or submit cases to the EUAA Case Law Database)

The National Court of Asylum, based on recent analyses by the European Union Agency for Asylum, considered that 12 of the 34 provinces of Afghanistan, including Kabul, were subjected to indiscriminate violence against civilians as a result of armed conflict.

CNDA 14 février 2023 n° 22023959 : http://www.cnda.fr/Media/TACAA/CNDA/Documents-CNDA/Communiques-de-presse/Decision-du-14-fevrier-2023-M.-S.-n-22023959-C (FR)

Judges recall that a person benefiting from subsidiary protection in another Member State cannot claim the benefit of conventional or subsidiary protection «as soon as he or she enters the territory» (unless the protection has ceased in the other State or is ineffective). However, according to them, if this person is admitted to stay in France, OFPRA is obliged to examine his or her asylum application "in the light of the persecutions he or she would face at the date of the application in the country where he or she is a national".

CE 25 janvier 2023 n°460094 : Conseil d'État (conseil-etat.fr) (FR)

Protection in Greece, but application admissible in France:

CNDA 27 octobre 2022 n°22027944 (FR)

CNDA 14 octobre 2022 n°22030088 (FR)

Annulment of transfer decisions to Italy for systemic failure:

TA Nantes 21 mars 2023 n°2303064 (FR)

TA Nantes 18 avril 2023 n°2303902 (FR)

TA Paris 9 mai 2023 n°2307899 (FR)

TA Rouen 22 mai 2023 n°2301631 (FR)

TA Rouen 22 mai 2023 n°2301655 (FR)

TA Rouen 22 mai 2023 n°2301712 (FR)

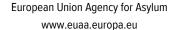
TA Strasbourg 25 juillet 2023 n°2304504 (FR)

TA Strasbourg 26 juillet 2023 n°2304543 (FR)

CAA Nantes 26 septembre 2023 n° 23NT01470 (appeal level):

https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/ceta/id/CETATEXT000048110536?init=true&page=1&query=&searchField=ALL&tab_selection=cetat (FR)

It follows a letter from Italy (5 December 2022) and a decision of the Dutch Council of States. Staatssecretaris J&V mag nu geen asielzoekers terugsturen naar Italië - Raad van State (DU)





The constant declarations of the applicant and the issuance of a travel document by the Hungarian authorities are added to all the elements that make it possible to consider that the applicant holds international protection, despite the response of the Hungarian consulate. CNDA 28 mars 2023 n°20031552 : 20031552 (cnda.fr) (FR)

The National Court of Asylum finds that Russians fleeing mobilization for war in Ukraine and mobilized who deserted can obtain refugee status.

CNDA GF 20 juillet 2023 n°21068674 : 21068674GF.pdf (cnda.fr) (FR)

In a decision of 20 June 2023, the Administrative Tribunal of Lyon indicates that the provisions of art. L424-11 CESEDA do not respect those of art. 24 of the qualification directive. According to the judges, there is no need to return to the country of origin to request family reunification. A residence permit should be delivered to the family members of the beneficiary of the subsidiary protection as soon as possible after the grant of such protection.

The judges conclude that, "Afghan women constitute a social group within the meaning and application of the Geneva Convention and are therefore likely to be exposed to persecution." CNDA 3 octobre 2023 n°22037537 (FR)

First time that the National Court identifies the existence of an armed conflict in Haiti within the meaning of European subsidiary protection law. CNDA 10 juillet 2023 n°22047742 (FR)

18. Other important developments in 2023

Recently, the Senate adopted a concerning bill, that will soon be discussed and voted by the Parliament: https://www.lemonde.fr/politique/article/2023/11/14/le-senat-adopte-le-projet-de-loi-immigration-dans-une-version-nettement-durcie_6200050_823448.html (FR)

The project seeks to:

- extend possibilities to detain asylum seekers;
- create new facilities to seek asylum (it does not take into account European negotiations on the Pact);
- restrict family reunification;
- forbid people with a negative decision to sleep in emergency centres;
- generalize options to refuse reception conditions;
- delete the three-judge formation for appeals (to keep only one); and
- maintain the three-month delay to access the universal healthcare system.

On another subject, we see more and more non-accompanied minors. The French Ministry of Justice published a guide on the protection of unaccompanied minors in Europe : justice.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2023-06/guide_euprom_2023.pdf (FR)

Some decrees have been published regarding remote services:



Decrees creating alternatives to teleservice when needed: <u>Légifrance - Publications officielles - Journal officiel - JORF n° 0070 du 23/03/2023 (legifrance.gouv.fr)</u> (FR) <u>Journal officiel de la République française - N° 179 du 4 août 2023 (legifrance.gouv.fr)</u> (FR) Since 5 April 2023, the teleservice has been extended to applications for new residence permits.

OFPRA has announced on its website that since February 15, 2023, the certificate of custom is no longer required for refugees, stateless persons and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection who wish to marry.

Part B: Publications

1. If available online, please provide links to relevant publications produced by your organisation in 2023

Annual report on asylum in France and in Europe: <u>L'asile en France et en Europe</u>. <u>État des lieux</u> <u>2023 - Version PDF (forumrefugies.org)</u> (FR – available in PDF format on request)

What protection have Afghan women received since the Taliban took power?: <u>La protection internationale des femmes afghanes doit être renforcée, selon un rapport publié par Forum réfugiés (forumrefugies.org)</u> (FR)

Activity report: Forum réfugiés - rapports d'activité annuels (forumrefugies.org) (FR)

Advocacy paper on the Pact on Migration and Asylum https://www.forumrefugies.org/images/s-informer/positions/france/Note_de_plaidoyer_--_Pacte_UE.pdf (FR)

Statements with other ONGs:

Seven Priorities to Expand Resettlement and Safe Pathways to Europe: https://www.forumrefugies.org/images/s-informer/positions/europe/7_priorities_to_expand_resettlement_and_safe_pathways_to_Europe_FINAL_v.5.pdf (EN)

NGOs call on Member States and the European Parliament to reject the use of legal loopholes in EU asylum reforms: https://www.forumrefugies.org/images/FINAL_Statement_Instrumentalisation_8_September_FR.pdf (FR)

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