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European Council
on Refugees and Exiles

ECRE Annual General Conference 2024

World Refugee Day

Global Displacement; European Anxiety

Thursday 20 June 2024

Thon Hotel EU, Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 75, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

Workshop Number: 1

Room: Belgium

Time: 11.00-13.00

Title	Implementing the EU asylum reforms: Risks and opportunities
Organiser	European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To discuss the main changes to the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) that have been introduced following the recently-concluded reforms and their potential impacts on displaced people.2. To provide an overview of the main steps for the implementation of the new rules.3. To discuss recommendations on the implementation of the new rules and the possible role for civil society organisations in it.
Facilitator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Olivia Sundberg – EU Advocate on Migration and Asylum, Amnesty International
Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Esther Pozo Vera – Head of Asylum Unit, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission• Luis Cerdán Ortiz-Quintana – Home Affairs Counsellor, Permanent Representation of Spain to the EU• Catherine Woollard – Director, ECRE
Format	Following initial presentations from the speakers, there will be a facilitated discussion to which all participants will be invited to contribute.

<p>Description</p>	<p>The negotiations on the reform proposals that were published in 2020 as part of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum – and those launched in 2016 and 2021 respectively – have finally been completed. New legislation will enter into force in June 2024, with a transition period of two years, after which it will be applicable in full by EU Member States (MS).</p> <p>The reforms have stimulated widespread debate, with civil society organisations arguing that they will reduce protection standards in Europe while increasing the complexity of European asylum systems. Questions have been raised about the impact on the balance of responsibility between EU MS and some political parties have argued that the reforms do not go far enough and have developed proposals for further rounds of legal changes.</p> <p>The end of the lengthy reform process, which started in 2016, could lead to a renewed focus on compliance, with more resources directed at tackling implementation challenges and existing gaps in EU MS’ national asylum systems. ECRE has argued that the implementation of the reforms should be comprehensive and take place in conformity with standards in international law and EU primary law, and in line with relevant jurisprudence, especially that of the Court of Justice of the EU. Legal referrals and challenges at either the national and European levels may serve to clarify and constrain the implementation of the reforms.</p> <p>Ultimately, whether the reformed CEAS will enable some of the longstanding challenges affecting national asylum and reception systems to be addressed, will largely depend on rigorous and balanced monitoring by the EU institutions and agencies, as well as by independent national mechanisms entrusted with sufficient resources.</p> <p>The aim of this workshop is to provide an overview of the main legislative changes that have been introduced by the reforms, and on the timing and relevant steps of the implementation phase. It will also focus on the potential role for civil society in shaping the implementation phase and on developing recommendations on relevant priorities.</p>
<p>Contact</p>	<p>For more information about this workshop, please contact Eleonora Testi (ECRE)</p>

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