



WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

FOR COOPERATION ON EXTERNAL ACTION

BETWEEN

THE DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS (DG HOME)

AND

THE EUROPEAN ASYLUM SUPPORT OFFICE (EASO)

The Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs, hereinafter referred to as "DG HOME";

and

The European Asylum Support Office, hereinafter referred to as "EASO",

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 439/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010, establishing EASO, in particular Articles 2, 7 and 49 thereof,

Having regard to the Joint Statement of the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the European Commission on decentralised agencies of 19 July 2012 and the Common Approach on EU decentralised agencies annexed to it,

Having regard to the Roadmap on the follow-up to the Common Approach on EU decentralised agencies, adopted by the Commission in December 2012,

Having regard to the Vademecum on the External Action of the European Union (SEC(2011)881),

Having regard to the Vademecum on Working Relations with the European External Action Service (SEC(2011)1636),

WHEREAS

- (1) The Management Board of EASO adopted the External Action Strategy following consultation with the European Commission in November 2013;
- (2) EASO shall act in agreement with DG HOME and in accordance with the institutional set up foreseen in EASO's founding Regulation when defining the priorities for its operational activities in line with the overarching EU external policy needs;
- (3) EASO's external action shall be in line with the overall EU external relations policies and priorities in particular, the **General Approach to Migration Management (GAAM)**, the **European Agenda on Migration (EAM)**, the **European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)**, the **EU Enlargement Strategy**, the **Valletta Action Plan**, the **Western Balkans Leaders Statement**, the **EU-Turkey Statement**, the **Partnership Framework on migration with third countries under the European Agenda on Migration**, the **Malta Declaration and its Implementation Plan**, and other relevant EU external action policy and action plans, shall be implemented within the framework of EASO's founding Regulation;
- (4) EASO shall engage in actions within the external dimension of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) to bring added value in line with its role as a centre of expertise on asylum and reception and shall not duplicate efforts carried out by other partners and stakeholders;
- (5) EASO shall work in close cooperation with Member States, the appropriate Directorates General of the European Commission, the European External Action Service (EEAS), EU JHA Agencies, and where relevant, in partnership with UNHCR, IOM and other relevant actors.

HAVE AGREED on the following working arrangement:

PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES

Purpose

The purpose of this working arrangement is to establish a framework for cooperation between EASO and DG HOME on external action, to ensure **better coordination, pro-active reciprocal information exchange and consistency.**

Principles

The following principles govern the cooperation between the Parties on matters related to external action:

- Respect for the EU legal and institutional framework;
- EASO external action is carried out within the existing EU institutional framework;
- Open, upstream **two-way communication and regular reciprocal information provision;**
- Effectiveness and efficiency;
- Coordination, cooperation, synergy and avoidance of duplication of activities.

STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR EXTERNAL ACTION

Priorities of external action

EASO commits to exchange early information and consult DG HOME through the Unit responsible for asylum when developing its external action priorities and when starting key operational actions to ensure added value, compatibility and consistency with all EU external relations priorities implemented by the DG for Migration and Home Affairs and other Directorates General of the European Commission and the EEAS.

DG HOME commits to provide timely, pro-active policy guidance to EASO on external action, including information about new developments related to third countries and regions covered by the External Action Strategy of EASO.

EASO commits to inform DG HOME whenever it is invited by other Commission's Directorates General, EU institutions, third countries or other international partners to engage in external action.

Programming of external action

EASO's external activities shall be included in its Single Programming Document (SPD), which is adopted by the Management Board in line with Article 29(f) of EASO's founding Regulation and the opinion of the European Commission.



3/6

The resources assigned to external activities should be clearly indicated in the SPD. The SPD is adopted by the MB in line with EASO's Regulation.

Cooperation with third countries

EASO commits to seek the agreement of DG HOME and the approval and adoption by the Management Board before entering into cooperation with third countries defining the nature, extent and manner in which the cooperation between the Agency and these countries is implemented, including cooperation in technical aspects of the areas covered by the EASO regulation. Formalisation of such cooperation shall be concluded in accordance with the relevant provisions of the TFEU.

COMMUNICATION ON EXTERNAL ACTION

Exchange of information

EASO and DG HOME commit to regularly exchange information on existing and planned external action activities in order to ensure the necessary prioritisation and coordination in line with the applicable EU policy framework.

EASO commits to inform DG HOME about new developments related to technical cooperation with third countries.

DG HOME commits to provide relevant information to EASO about new developments related to third countries and regions on asylum related matters, including relevant activities carried out by other EU Agencies or actors (e.g. deployment of EMLOs).

Formal Correspondence on external action

Formal written correspondence (registered letters) concerning external action between EASO and any third country authority shall be copied to DG HOME, and where appropriate, other Directorate Generals of the European Commission, the EEAS and relevant EU Delegations in the country concerned.

When relevant to the mission of EASO, DG HOME shall inform EASO about its formal written correspondence (registered letters) concerning external action related to asylum between the DG and any third country authority.

External Public Communication

EASO commits to perform its external public communication on external action activities in line with its founding Regulation, External Action Strategy and relevant EU policies and legislation.

EASO commits to consult DG HOME and liaise with the EEAS on its communication related to external action and operational activities, to ensure that the Commission, the EEAS and EASO are informed on each other activities and present a common narrative.

MANAGEMENT CONSULTATIONS ON EXTERNAL ACTION

Regular meetings and video conferences

EASO and DG HOME commit to hold regular meetings and or video conferences at technical level, to discuss ongoing and future activities on the external dimension.

DG HOME shall be invited to the regular meetings of EASO's External Dimension Network, which is considered the main forum for regular provision of information on EASO's initiatives in the external dimension.

EASO shall be invited to any regular information sharing meeting organised by DG HOME on external action in the field of asylum, as appropriate, in particular for coordinating information sharing on asylum, international protection, reception, and resettlement initiatives involving third countries.

DG HOME will provide EASO on a regular basis with information on its planned institutional meetings or visits to third countries with a focus on asylum with a view to facilitate the planning of EASO.

In a spirit of reciprocity, coherence and efficiency, EASO will provide DG HOME, with information on planned meetings and visits to international organisations and third countries.

Annual Meeting

EASO and DG HOME commit to hold an annual meeting at Director's level, in order to take stock of existing cooperation and assess possible new areas of cooperation related to external action.

These consultations should seek to support *inter alia* the respective annual planning cycles to enable proper and timely decision-making including possible prioritisation and resource allocation by the parties.

Minutes of such meetings shall be kept and jointly adopted.

FINAL PROVISIONS

Contact Points

For the implementation of this working arrangement, EASO and the Commission will each define a contact point for overall coordination, external coordination as well as external communication

Amendments and supplements

This working arrangement may be amended and supplemented in writing at any time by mutual consent.

The Management Board of EASO shall be informed, as appropriate, of this working arrangement, including any amendments and supplements to it before adoption.

Entry into force

This working arrangement shall enter into force on the day of its signature.

Signatures

For DG MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS

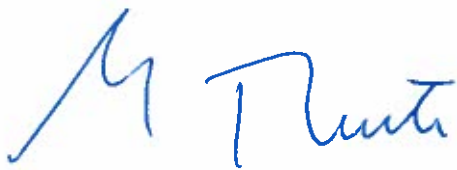
For the EASO

The Director-General,

The Executive Director,

Matthias Ruete

José Carreira



Signature: _____



Signature: _____

Brussels, 10 January 2018

