

EPRA final conference: Reception Authorities' Common Challenges in Perspective: Balancing between Flexibility, Efficiency and Quality in a European Context

4 December 2018, Brussels, Belgium

1. Context and objective of the conference

The European Platform of Reception Agencies (EPRA) was created in 2011 under the initiative of the Belgian Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (Fedasil) and a number of other reception agencies in Europe. The need for a platform resulted from the observation that national reception authorities in the EU are confronted with very similar challenges and that a platform would enable them to share expertise and knowledge on the management of reception.

In March 2016, in the wake of the European Agenda on Migration (2015), the European Asylum Support office (EASO) launched a new Network of Reception Authorities. Mid-2016, in order to formalise and reinforce the existing cooperation and synergies between EPRA and EASO, and in order to lay the basis for a smooth hand-over of EPRA activities to EASO, a transition period (2016-2018) during which activities would be organised jointly was agreed.

The objective of EPRA final conference, organized in cooperation with EASO, is to wrap up the activities implemented since EPRA's creation in 2011 and to disseminate the results of the platform to a wider audience while focusing on current challenges of EU reception administrations and EU cooperation on reception through the EASO Reception network. It will also be a perfect opportunity to officially close the EPRA platform as it stands now and officially hand it over to EASO.

2. Provisional agenda

8.30 – 9.00	Registration
9.00 – 10.30	Introductory session The session will be opened by Mr Michael Kegels, Director of Operations – EPRA Chair, Fedasil, Belgium and Mr Jamil Addou, EASO Executive Director a.i. This session aims at opening the discussions of the day with high level presentations about the current situation of migration, asylum and reception in the EU. A variety of key actors will share their observations based on the latest developments, the current situation and the possible way forward. Keynote speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mr Theo Francken, Belgian State Secretary for Asylum Policy and Migration with responsibility for Administrative Simplification

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Simon Mordue, Deputy Director-General Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs, European Commission Mr Vargas Llosa, UNHCR Regional Representative for EU Affairs Mr Denis Haveaux, Director, Red Cross EU Office.
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 – 12.30	<p>High level panel discussion: Reception authorities' current challenges and role in an evolving perspective</p> <p>The objective of this session is to share strategic considerations and experiences on the challenges that reception authorities are facing in an evolving perspective and exchange on how the developments both at national (e.g. national reception trends and policy developments) and European level (e.g. considered internal or external solidarity measures) may redefine their strategic priorities and role. Confirmed speakers include so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs Mirjam Schuit, Unit Manager, Central Reception Agency, The Netherlands Mr Pavel Bacík, Director, Refugee Facilities Administration of the Ministry of the Interior, The Czech Republic Mrs Virginie Lasserre, Head of Reception of asylum seekers and refugees Department, Direction of Asylum, General Directorate for Aliens, Ministry of the Interior, France Mrs Fanny François, Director Policy Support, Fedasil, Belgium Mrs Dña Amapola Blasco, Deputy Director for International Protection Programmes, Ministry of Labour, Migration and Social Security, Spain. <p>This session will be moderated by Dr Hanne Beirens, Associate Director at Migration Policy Institute Europe.</p>
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
13.30 – 15.00	<p>Thematic session on reception</p> <p>This session, after a first wrap-up of EPRA activities organised since its creation in 2011, will interactively address more technical aspects/themes of the reception. Country representatives will present specific challenges and responses regarding the three tenets of an effective reception system, namely: flexibility, efficiency and quality.</p> <p>Speakers include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chain management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Björn Bergström, Specialist, Swedish Migration Agency, Sweden Reception flexibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Masoud Safavifard, Senior Adviser, Norwegian Directorate of Immigration, Norway Reception quality monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs Maria Pollhammer and Mrs Anamaria Sipos, Reception experts, Basic and Federal Care, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Austria Intervention by Mrs Sofie De Bisschop, Fedasil, Belgium <p>This session will be moderated by Mrs Vinciane Masurelle, Head International Relations Fedasil, EPRA and Mr Geert Knockaert, Reception Officer, EASO.</p>
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee break
15.30 – 16.00	<p>Closing words</p> <p>Mr Jean-Pierre Luxen, Fedasil Director General and Mr Jamil Addou, EASO Executive Director a.i. will close the meeting by summarizing main points of discussion and future</p>

	perspectives. This moment will also be the opportunity to officially close the EPRA project and hand it over to EASO.
16.00 – 17.30	Cocktail Reception

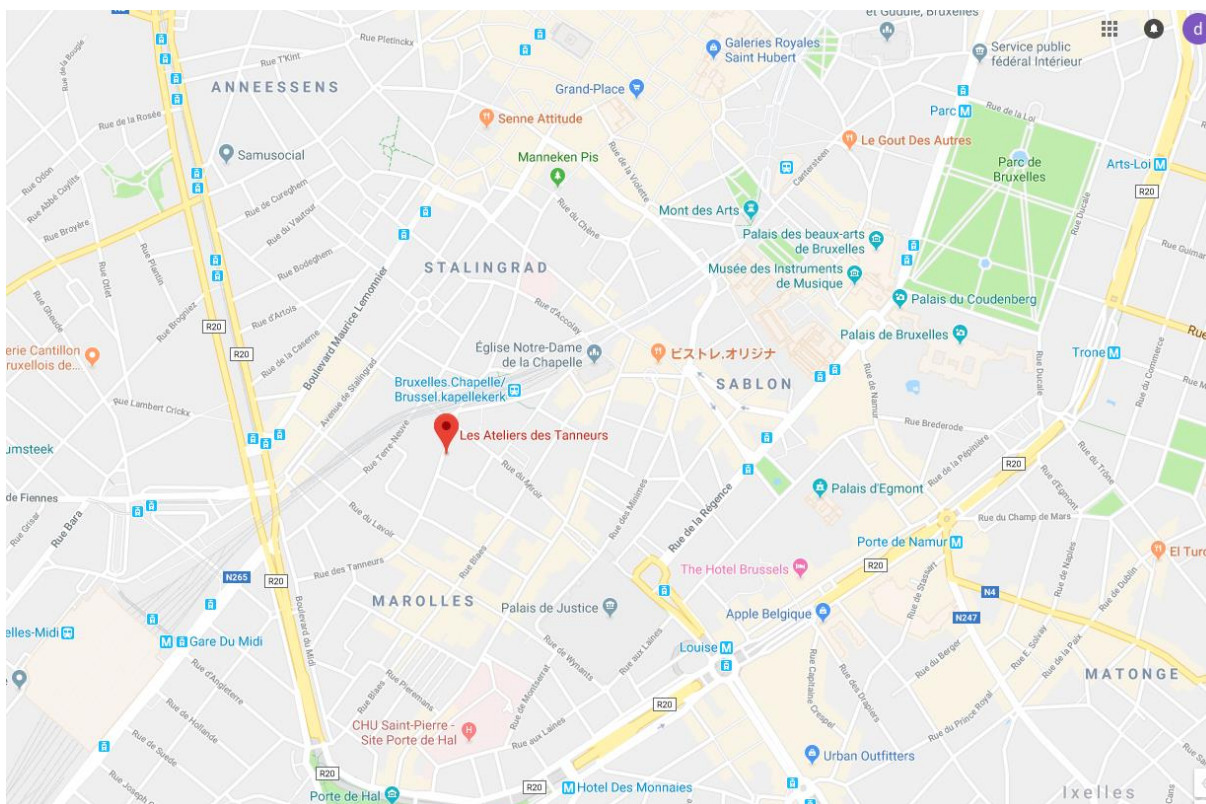
3. Practicalities

- **Participants:** The conference will include participants from national reception authorities (EPRA members, EASO reception NCPs, reception top managers), EU institutions, EASO, Belgian migration and asylum actors, international organisations, civil society organisations.
- **Language:** The meeting language will be English, no translation will be foreseen.
- **Location :** [Les Ateliers des Tanneurs](#), 58-62 rue des Tanneurs 1000 Brussels, Belgium

How to get there ?

With public transport – please stop at :

- Midi Station: bus 27, 49, 50, 78 – tram 3, 4, 32, 51, 81, 82 – metro : 2, 6
- Place du Jeu de Balle : bus 27, 48
- Louise : tram 92, 93, 94, 97 – metro : 2, 6
- Bruxelles-Central Station, Bruxelles-Chapelle Station
- Porte de Hal : bus 27, 48 – tram 3, 4, 51 - metro 2, 6
- Anneessens: tram 3, 4, 31, 32
- Lemonnier: tram 3, 4, 51, 82



4. Contact details



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