European Ombudsman

Emily O'Reilly
European Ombudsman

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AUTRICHE

Strasbourg, 17/12/2015

Respect for the human rights of asylum seekers and resettled persons in the context of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)

Dear colleague,

The European Network of Ombudsmen has been discussing, for a number of months and in different fora and bilaterally, the actions that competent members of the Network are undertaking, or considering undertaking, to improve the human rights situation of asylum seekers and resettled persons. Many members of the Network are concerned that, despite national authorities' significant efforts, much remains to be done in the area of reception and resettlement.

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From March 2015 to date, the Commission has been approving national multi-annual programmes for AMIF funding covering the period 2014-2020. The programmes contain strategies identifying the objectives to be pursued and examples of actions envisaged to meet these objectives, including the provision of housing, education, social assistance and alternatives to detention.

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European Ombudsman

Emily O'Reilly
European Ombudsman

Ms Maya Manolova
Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria
22 George Washington Street
1000 Sofia
BULGARIE

Strasbourg, 17/12/2015

Respect for the human rights of asylum seekers and resettled persons in the context of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)

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Ms Lora Vidović
Ombudsman
Pučki pravobranitelj
Trg hrvatskih velikana 6
10000 Zagreb
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Commissioner for Administration
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Diagorou 2
1097 Nicosia
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Ms Anna Šabatova
Public Defender of Rights
Kancelář veřejného ochrance práv
Údolní 39
602 00 Brno
RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE

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European Ombudsman

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European Ombudsman

Ms Ülle Madise
Legal Chancellor
Eesti Vabariigi Õiguskantsler
Kohtu 8
15193 Tallinn
ESTONIE

Strasbourg, 17/12/2015

Respect for the human rights of asylum seekers and resettled persons in the context of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)

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European Ombudsman

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European Ombudsman

Mr Petri Jääskeläinen
Eduskunnan oikeusasiamies
Eduskunnan oikeusasiamiehen kanslia
Arkadiankatu 3
00102 Helsinki
FINLANDE

Strasbourg, 17/12/2015

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Monsieur Jacques Toubon
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7 rue Saint-Florentin
75008 Paris
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Frau Kersten Steinke
Vorsitzende des Petitionsausschusses
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Platz der Republik 1
11011 Berlin
ALLEMAGNE

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European Ombudsman

Emily O'Reilly
European Ombudsman

Mr Vassileios Karydis
Acting Ombudsman
Greek Ombudsman
17 Halkokondyli Street
10432 Athens
GRECE

Strasbourg, 17/12/2015

Respect for the human rights of asylum seekers and resettled persons in the context of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)

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Dr Laszlő Székely
Commissioner for Fundamental Rights
Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights
Nádor utca 22
1051 Budapest
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European Ombudsman

Emily O'Reilly
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Mr Augustinas Normantas
Head Ombudsman
Seimas Ombudsmen's Office
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01110 Vilnius
LITUANIE

Strasbourg, 17/12/2015

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Madame Lydie Err
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Strasbourg, 17/12/2015

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European Ombudsman

Emily O'Reilly
European Ombudsman

Mr Reinier van Zutphen
Nationale Ombudsman
Bezuidenhoutseweg 151
PO Box 93122
2509 AC Den Haag
PAYS-BAS

Strasbourg, 17/12/2015

Respect for the human rights of asylum seekers and resettled persons in the context of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)

Dear colleague,

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Dr. Adam Bodnar
Human Rights Defender
Rzecznik Praw Obywatelskich
Al. Solidarnosci 77
00-090 Warszawa
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Mr Victor Ciorbea
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71204 Bucuresti
ROUMANIE

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811 09 Bratislava - Staré Mesto
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Enclosure: European Ombudsman letter to the European Commission

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European Ombudsman

Emily O'Reilly
European Ombudsman

Ms Vlasta Nussdorfer
Human Rights Ombudsman
Dunajska Cesta 56
1109 Ljubljana
SLOVĖNIE

Strasbourg, 17/12/2015

Respect for the human rights of asylum seekers and resettled persons in the context of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)

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Señora Soledad Becerril Bustamante
Defensora del Pueblo
Oficina de la Defensora del Pueblo
C/ Zurbano, 42
28010 Madrid
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Mr Lars Lindström
Justitieombudsman
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Enclosure: European Ombudsman letter to the European Commission

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European Ombudsman

Emily O'Reilly
European Ombudsman

Ms Cecilia Renfors
Justitieombudsman
Riksdagens ombudsmän - JO
Box 16327
10326 Stockholm
SUÈDE

Strasbourg, 17/12/2015

Respect for the human rights of asylum seekers and resettled persons in the context of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)

Dear colleague,

The European Network of Ombudsmen has been discussing, for a number of months and in different fora and bilaterally, the actions that competent members of the Network are undertaking, or considering undertaking, to improve the human rights situation of asylum seekers and resettled persons. Many members of the Network are concerned that, despite national authorities' significant efforts, much remains to be done in the area of reception and resettlement.

In a press statement issued on 8 September 2015 in relation to the refugee crisis, [1] I signalled the need for the EU institutions and Member States to live up to our stated commitment to human rights, now set out in several European and international treaties, and most recently in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU. I mentioned that, given the magnitude of the problem facing the EU, I would seek to make whatever useful contribution I can, in co-ordination with members of our Network.

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The present letter to the Network, and the letter that I am sending today to the President of the European Commission, seek to give effect to this public statement in a concrete area, that of the Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund. Operational from 1 January 2014 and managed jointly by the Member States and the Commission, the AMIF (and its predecessors, the European Refugee Fund and the European Integration Fund) support, to a limited extent, national authorities' efforts in this area[2]. The AMIF Regulation provides that the Fund should be implemented in full respect for the rights and principles enshrined in, among other instruments, the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. [3]

From March 2015 to date, the Commission has been approving national multi-annual programmes for AMIF funding covering the period 2014-2020. The programmes contain strategies identifying the objectives to be pursued and examples of actions envisaged to meet these objectives, including the provision of housing, education, social assistance and alternatives to detention.

As there is little information publicly available on the national programmes already approved by the Commission,[4] or on the approval process itself, I have asked the Commission to impress upon national authorities the importance of making these programmes available for public scrutiny in the very near future. Without knowing what has been agreed between the Commission and Member States, it is difficult for ombudsmen to play their role of scrutinising human rights compliance by national authorities when they use EU funds. While most national Ombudsmen could obtain access to these programmes, by exercising their power to do so, I believe it would be more efficient if the programmes were made publicly accessible. This would also enable interested members of the public and organisations active in this area to signal potential problems to your Office, such as failure to abide by what has been agreed between the Commission and the Member State in question. While

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European Ombudsman

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Dame Julie Therèse Mellor
Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman
Office of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman
Millbank Tower
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London SW1P 4QP
ROYAUME-UNI

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