



## REFORMING THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM: WHAT THE INDIVIDUAL REFORMS WOULD CHANGE AND WHY WE NEED THEM NOW

While compromise is still needed on some elements of the EU's asylum reform, enormous progress has been made on the overall set, with 5 out of the Commission's initial 7 proposals ready for adoption. Progress has also been made on the Asylum Procedure Regulation in both Parliament and the Council. A common asylum procedure is one of the cornerstones of an effective and fair asylum system, making a real difference on the ground.

# 6 Asylum Procedure Regulation

December 2018



### Strong added value

The Asylum Procedure Regulation will streamline the asylum procedure and make it more efficient, allowing for swifter procedures to identify those in need of protection and those who are not, including at the borders. It will also ensure common guarantees for asylum seekers – together with stricter rules to prevent abuse.



### Agreement not yet reached

European Parliament position adopted. Council still to adopt a negotiation mandate. Political agreement is possible in early 2019.

## A REFORMED ASYLUM PROCEDURE REGULATION WILL ENSURE:



### Simpler asylum procedure

The overall procedure will be streamlined. EU-wide time limits will be set for cases where applications are inadmissible or in cases where an accelerated procedure is used. Time limits will also be introduced for lodging appeals.



### Common guarantees for asylum seekers

Asylum seekers with special needs and unaccompanied minors will see their safeguards reinforced.



### Stricter rules to prevent abuse

Applicants will have clearer obligations to cooperate with the authorities and consequences if they do not cooperate will be stricter. Applications can be considered implicitly withdrawn when asylum applicants do not cooperate. Accelerated procedures will apply for example in cases where persons abuse the process or pose a security threat and also to persons coming from a safe country of origin.



### Common rules on safe countries

The new rules will provide clear criteria for when a third country can be considered safe for asylum seekers to be sent back to and find protection there, in line with the Geneva Convention. The new rules may also provide common European lists for safe countries.