



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 19 December 2016
(OR. en)

15576/16

LIMITE

ASILE 97
CODEC 1900
CSC 375

**Interinstitutional File:
2016/0131 (COD)**

NOTE

From:	Presidency
To:	Permanent Representatives Committee
Subject:	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Union Agency for Asylum and repealing Regulation (EU) No 439/2010 - Partial general approach

1. On 4 May 2016, the Commission adopted a proposal for the Regulation on the European Union Agency for Asylum¹. The proposal aims to strengthen the role of EASO and develop it into an Agency which facilitates the implementation and improves the functioning of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). Detailed examination of the proposal by Member States started at the Asylum Working Party meeting on 15 June and continued on 6 and 29 September as well as on 10 and 27 October. During these meetings Member States completed the first round of examination of the proposal including Presidency compromise suggestions. On 4 November, the examination of the proposal continued at the level of JHA Counsellors. Since then meetings of JHA Counsellors have taken place on 14 and 16 November as well as on 1, 5, 13 and 16 December. Discussions also took place at the meeting of SCIFA on 13 September and at the meeting of the JHA Council on 13 October. COREPER provided guidance on outstanding issues at its meeting on 7 December.

¹ doc. 8742/16 + ADD 1

2. A large majority of Member States welcomed the general aim of the proposal to strengthen the role of EASO so that it becomes a fully-fledged agency, equipped with the necessary tools to facilitate the implementation of CEAS. As a result of the latest meeting of JHA Counsellors on 16 December, the Presidency has prepared a revised version of the proposal that should meet the remaining concerns of most Member States and that can be found in Annex I to this Note. The latest Presidency compromise suggestions appear in **bold** and [...] by reference to document 15596/16.
3. Although the majority of delegations have expressed support for the Presidency compromise text of the Regulation, some continue to have general scrutiny reservations. Some delegations have specific reservations especially concerning Chapter 5 on monitoring (BE, BG, CZ, ES, FI, FR, HU, IT, PL, SI) and Chapter 6 on the operational and technical assistance (BE, CZ, ES, IT, PT, SI). PL and SI have parliamentary scrutiny reservations.
4. Delegations will find in Annex II a table containing the number of experts each Member State should contribute to the asylum reserve pool in accordance with paragraph 6 of Article 19A based on the contributions proposed by each Member State. There is general agreement that the asylum reserve pool should consist of 500 experts. The total number of experts laid down in Annex II falls short of that overall number. For this reason, the current figures appearing in the table are to be considered provisional and should be revisited with a view to reaching the total number of 500 experts.
5. Given the fact that this proposal forms an integral part of the overall reform of the CEAS, cross-references to other parts of the reform package are excluded from the partial general approach and are placed in square brackets. Furthermore, several delegations have indicated that they reserve their final position on this proposal pending developments of the negotiations on the other legislative proposals of the CEAS, including the on-going discussions on the application of the principles of responsibility and solidarity in asylum.

6. The Presidency would like to invite COREPER to agree on the compromise proposal, as set out in the Annexes to this Note, with a view to reaching a partial general approach, granting the Presidency a mandate to start negotiations with the European Parliament. The partial general approach will be agreed upon on the understanding that it will be necessary to revisit some parts of the text relating in particular to the on-going discussions on other proposals of the CEAS.
-

2016/0131 (COD)

Proposal for a

REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL
on the European Union Agency for Asylum and repealing Regulation (EU) No 439/2010

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 78(1) and (2) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

After transmission of the draft legislative act to the national parliaments,

Acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure,

Whereas:

- (1) The objective of the Union's policy on asylum is to develop and establish a Common European Asylum System (CEAS), consistent with the values and humanitarian tradition of the European Union and governed by the principle of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility.

- (2) The CEAS is based on common minimum standards for asylum procedures, recognition and protection offered at Union level, reception conditions and a system for determining the Member State responsible for asylum seekers. Notwithstanding progress on the CEAS, there are still significant disparities between the Member States in the granting of international protection and in the form that such international protection takes. Those disparities should be addressed by ensuring greater convergence in the assessment of applications for international protection and by guaranteeing a high and uniform level of application of Union law across the Union.
- (3) In its Communication of 6 April 2016, the Commission set out its options for improving the CEAS, namely to establish a sustainable and fair system for determining the Member States responsible for asylum seekers, to reinforce the Eurodac system, to achieve greater convergence in the asylum system and to prevent secondary movements, and develop an enhanced mandate for the European Asylum Support Office. That Communication is in line with calls by the European Council on 18 February 2016 to make progress towards reforming the EU's existing framework so as to ensure a humane and efficient asylum policy. It also proposes a way forward in line with the holistic approach to migration set out by the European Parliament in its own initiative report of 12 April 2016.

- (4) The European Asylum Support Office was established by Regulation (EU) No 439/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council ² and it took up its responsibilities on 1 February 2011. The European Asylum Support Office has enhanced practical cooperation among Member States on asylum-related matters and in assisting Member States in implementing their obligations under the CEAS. The European Asylum Support Office also provides support to Member States whose asylum and reception systems are under particular pressure. However, its role and function need to be further strengthened so as to not only support Member States in their practical cooperation but to reinforce and contribute towards ensuring the efficient functioning of the asylum and reception systems of Member States.
- (5) Having regard to structural weaknesses of the CEAS brought to the fore by large-scale and uncontrolled arrival of migrants and asylum seekers to the Union and the need for an efficient, high and uniform level of the application of Union asylum law in Member States, it is necessary to improve the implementation and functioning of the CEAS by building on the work of the European Asylum Support Office and further develop it into a fully-fledged agency which should be responsible for facilitating and improving the functioning of the CEAS, for enabling a sustainable and fair distribution of applications for international protection, for ensuring convergence in the assessment of applications for international protection across the Union, and for monitoring the operational and technical application of the CEAS.

² Regulation (EU) No 439/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 May 2010 establishing a European Asylum Support Office (OJ L 132, 29.5.2010, p. 11).

- (6) The tasks of the European Asylum Support Office should be expanded, and to reflect those changes, it should be renamed European Union Agency for Asylum. It should remain the same legal person, with full continuity in all its activities and procedures. The Agency should be a centre of expertise and its main role should be to strengthen practical cooperation and information exchange among Member States on asylum, promote Union law on asylum and operational standards to ensure a high degree of uniformity as regards asylum procedures, reception conditions and the assessment of protection needs across the Union, monitor the operational and technical application of the CEAS and standards as regards asylum, support the Dublin system and provide increased operational and technical assistance to Member States for the management of the asylum and reception systems, in particular those whose systems are subject to disproportionate pressure.
- (7) The European Union Agency for Asylum should work in close cooperation with Member States' authorities, responsible for immigration and asylum services and other relevant services, drawing on the capacity and expertise of those services, and with the Commission. Member States should cooperate with the Agency to ensure that it is able to fulfil its mandate. It is important, for the purposes of this Regulation, that the Agency and the Member States act in good faith and have a timely and accurate exchange of information. Any provision of statistical data should respect the technical and methodological specifications of Regulation (EC) No 862/2007.³
- (7a) *deleted*

³ Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 July 2007 on Community statistics on migration and international protection and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 311/76 on the compilation of statistics on foreign workers (OJ L 199, 31.7.2007, p. 23).

- (8) The European Union Agency for Asylum should gather and analyse information on the situation of asylum in the Union and in third countries insofar as this may have an impact on the Union. That should enable the Agency to assist Member States in better understanding the factors for asylum-related migration towards and within the Union, as well as for the purpose of early warning and preparedness of Member States.
- [(9) Having regard to the reform of the Dublin system, the European Union Agency for Asylum should provide the necessary support to the Member States by carrying out its tasks and obligations as set out in Regulation (EU) No XXX/XXX (Dublin Regulation).]
- (10) The European Union Agency for Asylum should assist Member States with training of experts from all national administrations, courts and tribunals, and national authorities responsible for asylum matters, including the development of a European Asylum curriculum. It is necessary to ensure that all experts participating in asylum support teams have received specialist training, for their participation in operational activities organised by the Agency. Such training may also take place just before the start of the operational activities themselves.
- (11) The European Union Agency for Asylum should ensure a more structured and streamlined production of information on relevant third countries at the level of the European Union. It is necessary for the Agency to gather information and draw up reports providing for country information by making use of European networks on third-country information so as to avoid duplication and create synergies with national reports.

- (11a) To ensure convergence in the assessment of applications for international protection and the type of protection granted, the Agency should, together with Member States, develop a common analysis and guidance notes on the situation in specific countries of origin. The common analysis should consist of a joint assessment of the situation in relevant countries of origin, based on the country of origin information. The guidance notes should be based on a joint interpretation of that common analysis to be carried out in the light of relevant provisions of Union asylum law, in particular the [Qualification Regulation and the Asylum Procedure Regulation]. Without prejudice to Member States' competence for deciding on individual applications, Member States should take into account the specific common analysis and guidance notes when assessing applications for international protection from applicants who originate from third countries for which a common analysis and guidance notes have been established in accordance with this Regulation.
- [(12) The Commission should regularly review the designation of third countries as safe countries of origin or safe third countries at Union level. Having regard to the Agency's expertise, it should assist the Commission in reviewing those designations. The Agency should also, at the request of the Commission, provide it with information on specific third countries which could be designated as safe countries of origin or safe third countries at Union level.]
- (13) To ensure a high degree of uniformity as regards asylum procedures, reception conditions and the assessment of protection needs across the Union, the Agency should organise and coordinate activities promoting Union law on asylum through tools of a non-binding nature. For that purpose, the Agency should assist Member States by developing operational standards and relevant indicators. The Agency should also develop guidelines on asylum-related matters and should enable the exchange of best practices among Member States.

- (14) The European Union Agency for Asylum, in close cooperation with the Commission and without prejudice to the Commission's responsibility as guardian of the Treaties, should [...] monitor the operational and technical application of the CEAS with the aim to prevent or identify possible shortcomings in the asylum and reception systems of the Member States and **to** assess their capacity and preparedness to manage situations of disproportionate pressure, so as to enhance the efficiency of those systems. The monitoring should be comprehensive and should be based, in particular, on information provided by Member States, information analysis on the situation of asylum developed by the Agency, on-site visits and case sampling. **The Executive Director should provide for the possibility for Member States to comment on the draft findings, and subsequently on the draft recommendations. The draft recommendations should be prepared also in consultation with the Commission.** The Executive Director should [...] **submit** the findings [...] **and the draft** recommendations, outlining the measures to be taken by the Member State concerned including with the assistance of the Agency as necessary to address any shortcoming and the time-limits within which those measures should be taken, **to the Management Board which should adopt the recommendations.** The Member State concerned may request specific financial support, and assistance by the Agency for the implementation of the recommendations.
- (14a) The monitoring should take place in close collaboration with the Member State concerned, in particular as regards the on-site visits and case sampling. The [...] case sampling should consist of selecting a number of positive or negative final decisions relevant to a specific aspect of the CEAS that is being monitored, covering a particular period of time **and it should be based on objective indications, such as comparative recognition rates of administrative or court decisions.** The case sampling should be without prejudice to Member States' competence for deciding on individual applications.

- (15) Where the Member State concerned does not take the necessary measures to address the recommendations within the set period of time and the shortcomings in the asylum and reception systems are so serious that they have serious consequences for the functioning of the CEAS, the Commission should, based on its own assessment of the seriousness of the shortcomings, adopt recommendations addressed to that Member State identifying the measures needed to remedy the shortcomings. The Commission may need to organise on-site visits to the Member State concerned to verify the implementation of the recommendations. Where necessary, the Commission should also identify specific measures that should be taken by the Agency in support of that Member State. If the Member State should remain non-compliant for a certain period of time, the Commission may make a proposal for a Council implementing act identifying measures to be taken by the Agency to support the Member State concerned and requiring the Member State to cooperate with the Agency in the implementation of those measures.
- (16) To facilitate and improve the proper functioning of the CEAS and to assist Member States in implementing their obligations within the framework of CEAS, the European Union Agency for Asylum should provide Member States with operational and technical assistance, in particular when their asylum and receptions systems are subject to disproportionate pressure. The Agency should provide the necessary operational and technical assistance through the deployment of asylum support teams consisting of experts from the Agency's own staff, experts from Member States or experts seconded by Member States to the Agency, and based on an operational plan. Those teams should support Member States with operational and technical measures, including by providing expertise relating to identification and registration of third countries nationals, interpreting services, information on countries of origin and knowledge of the handling and management of asylum cases, as well as by assisting national authorities competent for the examination of applications for international protection and by assisting with relocation or transfer of applicants or beneficiaries of international protection. The arrangements for the asylum support teams should be governed by this Regulation in order to ensure their effective deployment.

- (17) In cases where a Member State's asylum and reception systems are subject to disproportionate pressure, the European Union Agency for Asylum should assist that Member State upon request or on the Agency's own initiative, by means of a comprehensive set of measures, including the deployment of experts from the asylum reserve pool. To ensure the availability of those experts and their immediate deployment, the asylum intervention pool should constitute a reserve of experts from Member States amounting to a minimum of 500 persons. The Agency should itself be able to intervene in support of a Member State where despite the disproportionate pressure that places exceptionally heavy and urgent demands on its asylum or reception systems, the Member State does not take sufficient action, including by not requesting or accepting assistance to address that pressure, with the consequence that the asylum and reception systems would be ineffective to the extent of having serious consequences for the functioning of the CEAS. A situation of disproportionate pressure may be characterised by a sudden and massive influx of third-country nationals of such an extent that it would place extreme pressure even on well-prepared asylum and reception systems or a high risk of sudden and massive influx of third-country nationals requiring immediate action. A disproportionate number of applications for international protection for which a Member States is responsible may also be an indication of disproportionate pressure.
- (18) To ensure that the asylum support teams, including those deployed from the asylum reserve pool are able to perform their tasks effectively with the means necessary, the European Union Agency for Asylum should be able to acquire or lease its own technical equipment. This should, however, not affect the obligation of the host Member States to supply the necessary facilities and equipment for the Agency to be able to provide the required operational and technical assistance. Any acquisition or leasing of equipment should be subject to a thorough needs and cost/benefit analysis by the Agency.

- (19) For Member States that are faced with specific and disproportionate pressure on their asylum and reception systems due, in particular, to their geographical or demographic situation, the European Union Agency for Asylum should support the development of solidarity within the Union and assist in the better relocation or transfer of applicants or beneficiaries of international protection among Member States, while ensuring that asylum and reception systems are not abused.
- (20) At particular areas where the host Member States, the Commission, relevant Union Agencies cooperate with the aim of managing a disproportionate migratory pressure characterised by a significant increase in the numbers of mixed migratory flows, referred to as hotspot areas, the Member States should be able to rely on increased operational and technical reinforcement by migration management support teams composed of teams of experts from Member States deployed through the European Union Agency for Asylum, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and Europol or other relevant Union bodies, offices and agencies, as well as experts from the staff of the European Union Agency for Asylum and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency. The Agency should ensure coordination of its activities in the migration management support teams with the Commission and the other relevant Union bodies, offices and agencies.
- (21) For the purpose of fulfilling its mission, and to the extent required for the accomplishment of its tasks, the European Union Agency for Asylum should cooperate with Union bodies, offices and agencies, in particular with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, in matters covered by this Regulation in the framework of working arrangements concluded in accordance with Union law and policy. Those working arrangements should receive the Commission's prior approval.

- (22) The European Union Agency for Asylum should cooperate with the European Migration Network, established by Council Decision 2008/381/EC⁴, to ensure synergies and avoid duplication of activities.
- (23) The European Union Agency for Asylum should cooperate with international organisations, in particular the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in matters covered by this Regulation in the framework of working arrangements so as to benefit from their expertise and support. To that end, the roles of UNHCR and the other relevant international organisations should be fully recognised and those organisations should be involved in the work of the Agency. The working arrangements should receive the Commission's prior approval.
- (24) The European Union Agency for Asylum should facilitate operational cooperation between Member States and third countries in matters covered by this Regulation. It should also cooperate with the authorities of third-countries in the framework of working arrangements which should receive the Commission's prior approval. The Agency should act in accordance with the Union's external relations policy and under no circumstances should it formulate any independent external policy. In their cooperation with third countries, the Agency and the Member States should comply with norms and standards which form part of Union legislation also when the cooperation with third countries takes place on the territory of those countries.
- (25) The European Union Agency for Asylum should maintain a close dialogue with civil society with a view to exchanging information and pooling knowledge in the field of asylum. The Agency should set up a Consultative Forum which should constitute a mechanism for the exchange of information and the sharing of knowledge. The Consultative Forum should advise the Executive Director and the Management Board in matters covered by this Regulation.

⁴ Council Decision of 14 May 2008 establishing a European Migration Network (OJ L 131, 21.5.2008, p. 7).

- (26) This Regulation respects fundamental rights and observes the principles recognised in particular by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. All activities of the European Union Agency for Asylum shall be carried out in full respect of these fundamental rights and principles, including the right to asylum, the protection from *refoulement*, the right to respect for private and family life, the right to protection of personal data and the right to an effective remedy. The rights of the child and the special needs of vulnerable persons shall always be taken into account.
- (27) The Commission and the Member States should be represented on the Management Board of the European Union Agency for Asylum in order to exercise a policy and political oversight over its workings. The Management Board should, where possible, consist of the operational heads of the Member States' asylum administrations or their representatives. All parties represented in the Management Board should make efforts to limit turnover of their representatives, in order to ensure continuity of the board's work. The Management Board should be given the necessary powers, in particular to establish the budget, verify its execution, adopt the appropriate financial rules, establish transparent working procedures for decision-making by the Agency, and appoint an Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director. The Agency should be governed and operated in line with the principles of the Common Approach on Union decentralised agencies adopted on 19 July 2012 by the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission.
- (28) *deleted*
- (29) The European Union Agency for Asylum should be independent as regards operational and technical matters and it should enjoy legal, administrative and financial autonomy. To that end, it is necessary and appropriate that the Agency should be a body of the Union having legal personality and exercising the implementing powers conferred upon it by this Regulation.

- (30) In order to guarantee the autonomy of the European Union Agency for Asylum, it should have its own budget, most of which comes essentially from a contribution from the Union. The financing of the Agency should be subject to an agreement by the budgetary authority as set out in point 31 of the Inter-institutional Agreement of 2 December 2013 between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on budgetary discipline, on cooperation in budgetary matters and on sound financial management.⁵ The Union budgetary procedure should be applicable to the Union's contribution and to any grant chargeable to the general budget of the European Union. The auditing of accounts should be undertaken by the Court of Auditors.
- (31) Any financial resources made available by the Agency under the form of grants, delegated agreements or form of contract in accordance with this Regulation should not result in double financing with other national, European or international sources.
- (32) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1271/2013 of 30 September 2013 on the framework financial regulation for the bodies referred to in Article 208 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 328, 7.12.2013, p. 42) should apply to the European Union Agency for Asylum.
- (33) Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council ⁶ should apply without restriction to the European Union Agency for Asylum, which should accede to the Inter-institutional Agreement of 25 May 1999 between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the Commission of the European Communities concerning internal investigations by the European Anti-Fraud Office.⁷

⁵ OJ C 373, 20.12.2013, p. 1.

⁶ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18.9.2013, p. 1).

⁷ OJ L 136, 31.5.1999, p. 15.

- (34) Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents⁸ should apply to the European Union Agency for Asylum.
- (35) Any processing of personal data by the European Union Agency for Asylum within the framework of this Regulation should be conducted in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and should respect the principles of necessity and proportionality.⁹ The Agency may process personal data to perform its tasks of providing operational and technical assistance to Member States, to facilitate the exchange of information with Member States, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, Europol or Eurojust, to analyse information on the situation of asylum and for administrative purposes. Any further processing of retained personal data for purposes other than those set out in this Regulation should be prohibited.
- (36) Regulation (EU) No 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 April 2016¹⁰ on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) applies to the processing of personal data by the Member States carried out in application of this Regulation unless such processing is carried out by the designated or verifying competent authorities of the Member States for the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of terrorist offences or of other serious criminal offences including the safeguarding against and the prevention of threats to public security.

⁸ Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43).

⁹ Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data (OJ L 8, 12.1.2001, p. 1).

¹⁰ OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1.

- (37) Directive (EU) 2016/680 of the European Parliament and of the Council ¹¹ of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by competent authorities for the purposes of prevention, investigation, detection or prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Council Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA applies to the processing of personal data by competent authorities of the Member States for the purposes of the prevention, investigation detection or prosecution of terrorist offences or of other serious criminal offences pursuant to this Regulation.
- (38) The rules set out in Regulation (EU) No 2016/679 regarding the protection of the rights and freedoms of individuals, notably their right to the protection of personal data concerning them, with regard to the processing of personal data should be specified in respect of the responsibility for the processing of the data, of safeguarding the rights of data subjects and of the supervision of data protection, in particular as far as certain sectors are concerned.
- (39) The Agency should process personal data only for the purposes of performing its tasks of providing operational and technical assistance, when carrying out case sampling for the purposes of the monitoring exercise, possibly handling applications for international protection from children or vulnerable persons, facilitating the exchange of information with Member States, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, Europol or Eurojust and in the framework of information obtained when performing its tasks in the migration management support teams at hotspots, and for analysing information on the situation of asylum. Any processing of personal data should respect the principle of proportionality and be strictly limited to personal data necessary for these purposes.
- (40) Any personal data that the Agency processes, except those processed for administrative purposes, should be deleted after 30 days. A longer storage period is not necessary for the purposes for which the Agency processes personal data within the framework of this Regulation.

¹¹ OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 89.

- (41) The European Data Protection Supervisor was consulted in accordance with Article 28(2) of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and delivered an opinion on 21 September 2016.¹²
- (42) Since the objectives of this Regulation, namely the need to facilitate the implementation and improve the functioning of the CEAS, to strengthen practical cooperation and information exchange among Member States on asylum-related matters, to promote Union law on asylum and operational standards to ensure a high degree of uniformity as regards asylum procedures, reception conditions and the assessment of protection needs across the Union, to monitor the operational and technical application of the CEAS and to provide increased operational and technical assistance to Member States for the management of the asylum and reception systems, in particular to Member States subject to disproportionate pressure on their asylum and reception systems, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States and can therefore, by reason of the scale and effects of the action, be better achieved at the level of the Union, the Union may adopt measures in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity as set out in Article 5 of the TEU. In accordance with the principle of proportionality, as set out in that Article, this Regulation does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve those objectives.
- (43) *[In accordance with Article 3 of Protocol No 21 on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland in respect of the area of freedom, security and justice, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, those Member States have notified their wish to take part in the adoption and application of this Regulation]*

OR

[In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of Protocol No 21 on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland in respect of the area of freedom, security and justice, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and without prejudice to Article 4 of that Protocol, those Member States are not taking part in the adoption of this Regulation and are not bound by it or subject to its application.]

¹² OJ C [...]

OR

[(XX) In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of Protocol No 21 on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland in respect of the area of freedom, security and justice, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and without prejudice to Article 4 of that Protocol, the United Kingdom is not taking part in the adoption of this Regulation and is not bound by it or subject to its application.

[(XX) In accordance with Article 3 of Protocol No 21 on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland in respect of the area of freedom, security and justice, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Ireland has notified (, by letter of ...,) its wish to take part in the adoption and application of this Regulation.]

OR

[(XX) In accordance with Article 3 of Protocol No 21 on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland in respect of the area of freedom, security and justice, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the United Kingdom has notified (, by letter of ...,) its wish to take part in the adoption and application of this Regulation.

[(XX) In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of Protocol No 21 on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland in respect of the area of freedom, security and justice, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and without prejudice to Article 4 of that Protocol, Ireland is not taking part in the adoption of this Regulation and is not bound by it or subject to its application.]

- (44) In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of the Protocol (No 22) on the Position of Denmark, annexed to the Treaties, Denmark is not taking part in the adoption of this Regulation and is not bound by it nor is it subject to its application.

- (45) Taking into account that Denmark has until now contributed to the practical cooperation between Member States within the area of asylum, the Agency should facilitate operational cooperation with Denmark. To that end, a Danish representative should be invited to participate in all the meetings of the Management Board, without the right to vote.
- (46) The competence of Member States' asylum authorities to take a decision on individual applications for international protection should remain unaffected.
- (47) This Regulation aims to amend and expand the provisions of Regulation (EU) No 439/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council. Since the amendments to be made are of a substantial nature, that act should, in the interests of clarity, be replaced and repealed. References to the repealed regulation should be construed as references to this Regulation.

HAVE ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

CHAPTER 1

THE EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR ASYLUM

Article 1

Subject-matter and scope

1. The European Union Agency for Asylum (the Agency) shall contribute to ensuring the efficient and uniform application of Union asylum law in Member States. The Agency shall support Member States in the implementation of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), including by enabling convergence in the assessment of applications for international protection across the Union and it shall improve the functioning of the CEAS by providing operational and technical assistance to Member States, in particular where their asylum and receptions systems are under disproportionate pressure.
2. The Agency should be a centre of expertise by virtue of its independence, the scientific and technical quality of the assistance it provides and the information it disseminates, the transparency of its operating procedures and methods, its diligence in performing the duties assigned to it, and the information technology support needed to fulfil its mandate.
3. The European Union Agency for Asylum shall be the new name for the European Asylum Support Office established by Regulation (EU) No 439/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council. The activities of the Agency shall henceforth be based on this Regulation.

Article 2

Tasks

1. For the purposes of Article 1, the Agency shall perform the following tasks:
 - (a) facilitate, coordinate and strengthen practical cooperation and information exchange among Member States on the asylum and reception systems;
 - (b) gather and analyse information on the situation of asylum and on the implementation of the CEAS;
 - (c) support Member States when carrying out their tasks and obligations in the framework of the CEAS;
 - (d) assist Member States on training of experts from relevant national administrations, courts and tribunals, and national authorities responsible for asylum matters, including through the development of a European asylum curriculum;
 - (e) draw up and regularly update reports and other products providing for information on the situation in relevant third countries, including countries of origin, at the level of the Union;
 - (ee) set up and coordinate European networks on third country information;
 - (f) organise activities and coordinate efforts among Member States to develop a common analysis of and guidance notes on the situation in countries of origin;

- [(ff) assist the Commission in the assessment and designation of third countries as safe countries of origin and safe third countries at Union level;]
- (g) provide effective operational and technical assistance to Member States, in particular when they are subject to disproportionate pressure on their asylum and reception systems;
- [(h) carry out the tasks and obligations set out in Regulation (EU) No XXX/XXX [the Dublin Regulation] and assist with the relocation or transfer of applicants or beneficiaries of international protection within the Union;]
- (i) set up and deploy asylum support teams;
- (ii) set up an asylum reserve pool;
- (j) deploy the necessary technical equipment for the asylum support teams;
- (k) develop, in cooperation with Member States, operational standards, indicators, guidelines and best practices in regard to the implementation of all instruments of Union law on asylum;
- (l) monitor the operational and technical application of the CEAS with a view to assisting Member States to enhance the efficiency of their asylum and reception systems;
- (m) support Member States in their cooperation with third countries in matters related to the external dimension of the CEAS, [including by carrying out the tasks and obligations set out in Regulation (EU) No XXX/XXX [Union Resettlement Framework Regulation].

3. The Agency may engage in communication activities on its own initiative in the fields within its mandate. Communication activities shall not be detrimental to the tasks referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, and shall be carried out in accordance with the relevant communication and dissemination plans adopted by the Management Board.

Article 2a

National contact points for communication

Each Member State shall appoint at least one national contact point for communication with the Agency on matters relating to its tasks listed in Article 2.

CHAPTER 2

PRACTICAL COOPERATION AND INFORMATION ON ASYLUM

Article 3

Duty to cooperate in good faith and exchange information

1. The Agency and the Member States' authorities responsible for asylum and immigration and other relevant services shall cooperate in good faith and exchange information as specified in this Regulation.

For that purpose, the Agency and Member States shall exchange information to the extent necessary to enable them to perform the tasks and obligations conferred upon them by this Regulation, in particular for the Agency to analyse information on the situation of asylum and on the implementation of the CEAS, to provide training, carry out the monitoring, provide operational and technical assistance and support cooperation with third parties, as well as to enable cooperation in drawing up country information reports and guidance notes, and in developing operational standards, indicators, guidelines and best practices.

2. The Agency shall organise, promote and coordinate activities enabling the exchange of information among Member States, including through the establishment of networks as appropriate. For those purposes, the Agency and the Member States' authorities responsible for asylum and immigration and other relevant services shall share, in a timely and accurate manner, all necessary information.
3. The Agency shall work closely with the Member States' authorities responsible for asylum and immigration and other relevant services and with the Commission. The Agency shall carry out its duties without prejudice to those assigned to other relevant bodies of the Union and shall work closely with those bodies and with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Article 4

Information analysis on the situation of asylum

1. The Agency shall gather and analyse information on the situation of asylum in the Union and in third countries insofar as this may have an impact on the Union, including up-to-date information on root causes, migratory and refugee flows as well as on possible arrivals of large numbers of third-country nationals which may cause disproportionate pressure on Member States' asylum and reception systems, with a view to provide timely and reliable information to the Member States and to identify possible risks to the Member States' asylum and reception systems.

For this purpose, the Agency shall work in close collaboration with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, and shall rely in particular on the risk analysis carried out by [...] **the European Border and Coast Guard** Agency so as to ensure the highest level of consistency and convergence in the information provided by both Agencies.

2. In addition, the Agency shall base its analysis on information provided, in particular, by Member States, relevant Union institutions and agencies, the European External Action Service as well as UNHCR and other international organisations.
3. The Agency shall ensure the rapid exchange of relevant information amongst Member States and with the Commission. It shall also submit, in a timely and accurate manner, the results of its analysis to the Management Board.

Article 5

Information on the implementation of the CEAS

1. The Agency shall organise, coordinate and promote the exchange of information among Member States and between the Commission and the Member States concerning the implementation of all instruments of Union law on asylum.
2. The Agency shall create factual, legal and case law databases on Union, national and international asylum instruments making use, in particular, of existing arrangements. No personal data shall be stored in such databases, unless such data are publicly accessible.

For that purpose, the Agency shall gather and share information on the following:

- (a) statistics on the number of applications for international protection and decisions taken by national authorities responsible for asylum matters;
- (b) national law and legal developments in the field of asylum, including case law;

- (c) relevant case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union and of the European Court of Human Rights.

Article 6 - deleted

Article 7

Training

1. The Agency shall establish and develop training for members of its own staff, members of relevant national administrations, courts and tribunals, and national authorities responsible for asylum and reception matters in the Member States.
2. The Agency shall develop and review such training in close cooperation with Member States and, where necessary, in cooperation with appropriate training entities in the Member States, including academic institutions and other relevant organisations.
3. The Agency shall develop a European asylum curriculum taking into account the Union's existing cooperation in the field of asylum, and on the basis of which Member States shall develop the appropriate training for their staff pursuant to their obligations under Union law on asylum.
4. As part of the European asylum curriculum, the Agency shall develop general, specific or thematic training tools, as well as ad hoc training activities, which may include ‘train-the-trainers’ methodology and e-learning. The specific or thematic training tools regarding asylum matters shall include, in particular:
 - (a) international and Union fundamental rights standards, and in particular the provisions of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, as well as international and Union law on asylum, including specific legal and case law issues;

- (b) issues related to the processing of applications for international protection;
 - (c) interview techniques;
 - (d) *deleted*
 - (e) the use of expert medical and legal reports in asylum procedures;
 - (f) issues relating to the production and use of information on third countries;
 - (g) reception conditions;
 - (gg) issues related to minors, in particular unaccompanied minors, as regards the best interests of the child assessment, specific procedural safeguards such as respect of the child's right to be heard and child protection aspects such as age-assessment techniques,
 - (gh) issues related to persons in need of special procedural guarantees or with special reception needs, with particular attention to vulnerable groups, victims of torture, victims of human trafficking and related gender-sensitive issues.
 - (h) issues related to interpretation and cultural mediation;
 - (i) issues related to resettlement.
5. The training offered shall be of high quality and shall identify key principles and best practices with a view to greater convergence of administrative methods, decisions and legal practice, in full respect of the independence of national courts and tribunals.

6. The Agency shall take the necessary initiatives to verify, and where necessary, ensure that the experts who participate in the asylum support teams, have received specialist training relevant to their duties and functions for their participation in the operational activities organised by the Agency. The Agency shall, where necessary, conduct exercises with those experts in accordance with the specialist training and exercise schedule referred to in its annual work programme.
7. The Agency may organise training activities in cooperation with Member States or third countries on their territory.

CHAPTER 3

COUNTRY INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

Article 8

Information on third countries at Union level

1. The Agency shall be a centre for gathering relevant, reliable, objective, accurate and up-to-date information on relevant third countries in a transparent and impartial manner, making use of relevant information, including child-specific and gender-specific information, as well as targeted information on persons belonging to vulnerable groups. It shall draw up and regularly update reports and other products providing for information on relevant third countries at the level of the Union including on thematic issues specific to relevant third countries.

2. The Agency shall, in particular:

- (a) make use of all relevant sources of information, including its information analysis on the situation of asylum and other information gathered from international and other relevant organisations, including through the networks referred to in Article 9 and fact-finding missions, as well as through Union institutions, agencies, bodies, offices and the European External Action Service;
- (b) manage and further develop a portal for gathering and sharing information on relevant third countries;
- (c) develop a common format and a common methodology including terms of reference, in line with the requirements of Union law on asylum, for developing reports and other products with information on relevant third countries at the level of the Union.

Article 9

European networks on third-country information

- 1. The Agency shall ensure the coordination of national initiatives producing information on third countries by establishing and managing networks among Member States on third country information.
- 2. The purpose of the networks provided for in paragraph 1 shall be for Member States to, in particular:
 - (a) exchange and update national reports and other products, as well as other relevant information, on third countries including on thematic issues;

- (b) submit queries to the Agency related to specific questions of fact that may arise from applications for international protection, without prejudice to confidentiality rules as established in national law;
- (c) to contribute to the development and update of Union level reports and other products providing information on relevant third countries.

Article 10

Common analysis and guidance notes

1. To foster convergence in applying the assessment criteria established Regulation (EU) No XXX/XXX [Qualification Regulation], the Agency shall coordinate efforts among Member States to develop a common analysis on the situation in specific countries of origin and guidance notes to assist Member States in the assessment of relevant applications.
2. The Executive Director shall submit the guidance notes to the Management Board for endorsement. The guidance notes shall be accompanied by the common analysis.
- 2a. Member States shall take into account the guidance notes and common analysis when examining applications for international protection, without prejudice to their competence for deciding on individual applications.

3. The Agency shall ensure that the common analysis and guidance notes are kept under regular review and updated as necessary. Any such review or update shall likewise require endorsement by the Management Board.
4. Member States shall submit to the Agency any relevant information indicating that a review or an update of the common analysis and guidance notes is necessary.

[Article 11]

Designation of safe countries of origin and safe third countries

1. The Agency shall assist the Commission in regularly reviewing the situation in third countries which are included in the common EU list of safe countries of origin established by Regulation (EU) No XXX/XXX [SCO/APR] or designated as safe third countries at Union level in accordance with Regulation (EU) No XXX/XXX [APR], including those that have been suspended by the Commission and those that have been removed from that list.
2. The Agency shall, at the request of the Commission, provide it with information on specific third countries which could be considered for inclusion in the common EU list of safe countries of origin in accordance with Regulation (EU) No XXX/XXX [SCO/APR] or which could be designated as safe third countries at Union level in accordance with Regulation (EU) No XXX/XXX [APR].]

CHAPTER 4

OPERATIONAL STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Article 12

Operational standards, indicators, guidelines and best practices

1. The Agency shall organise and coordinate activities promoting a correct and effective implementation of Union law, including through the development of operational standards, indicators, guidelines or best practices on asylum-related matters, and the exchange of best practices in asylum-related matters among Member States.
2. The Agency shall, on its own initiative or at the request of the Management Board or the Commission, and in consultation with the Commission and the Member States, develop operational standards and relevant indicators as well as guidelines and best practices related to the implementation of the instruments of Union law on asylum. The Agency shall, after adoption by the Management Board, communicate those standards, indicators, guidelines or best practices to the Member States and to the Commission.
3. The Agency shall, at the request of Member States, assist them to apply the operational standards, guidelines and best practices to their asylum and reception systems by providing the necessary expertise or operational and technical assistance.

CHAPTER 5

MONITORING

Article 13

Mechanism for monitoring the operational and technical application of the CEAS

1. The Agency, in close cooperation with the Commission, shall monitor the operational and technical application of the CEAS in order to prevent or identify possible shortcomings in the asylum and reception systems of Member States and to assess their capacity and preparedness to manage situations of disproportionate pressure so as to enhance the efficiency of those systems.
2. The Agency shall, by a decision of two-thirds of the members of the Management Board with a right to vote, based on a proposal of the Executive Director and in consultation with the Commission, establish a common methodology for the monitoring mechanism established by this Regulation. This shall include objective criteria against which the Agency shall carry out the monitoring as referred to in paragraph 1.
3. The monitoring shall, having regard to the operational standards, indicators, guidelines and best practices referred to in Article 12, be carried out with respect to the operational and technical application of all aspects of the CEAS, in particular:
 - (a) [the Dublin system], asylum procedures, the application of criteria for assessing the need for protection and the type of protection granted, including as regards the respect of fundamental rights, child protection safeguards and the specific needs of vulnerable persons;

- (b) staff available and capacity in terms of translation, interpretation and, **without prejudice to the judicial independence and with full respect to the organisation of the judiciary of each Member State**, the handling of appeals;
 - (c) the reception conditions, capacity, infrastructure, equipment and, to the extent possible, financial resources.
4. The monitoring may be carried out, in particular, on the basis of the information provided by the Member State concerned, information analysis on the situation of asylum referred to in Article 4, on-site visits and case sampling.
5. Member States shall, at the request of the Agency, provide it with the information for the purposes of paragraph 3.

The Agency may request Member States to provide it with information on their contingency planning for measures to be taken to deal with possible disproportionate pressure and shall assist Member States to prepare and review their contingency planning, upon their request.

6. The Member States shall cooperate with the Agency, including by facilitating any on-site visit carried out for the purposes of the monitoring exercise. The Executive Director shall provide the Member States concerned with sufficient prior notice of any such visit.

Article 14

Procedure and follow-up

1. The Management Board shall, based on a proposal of the Executive Director and in consultation with the Commission, adopt the programme for monitoring the operational and technical application of the CEAS in each Member State, or on the basis of thematic or specific aspects of the CEAS with regard to all Member States. That programme shall indicate which Member States' asylum and reception systems shall be monitored in a particular year, ensuring that each Member State shall be monitored at least once in every five-year period.
2. In addition, where the information analysis raises serious concerns regarding the functioning of a Member State's asylum or reception systems, the Agency shall initiate a monitoring exercise either on its own initiative, in consultation with the Commission, or at the request of the Commission.
3. The Executive Director shall submit the findings of the monitoring exercise to the Member State concerned for comments, **including indications of its needs as appropriate**, with a time-limit of one month. The Executive Director shall, taking into account the comments of the Member State concerned and in consultation with the Commission, draw up draft recommendations. Those draft recommendations shall outline the measures to be taken by the Member State, including with the assistance of the Agency as necessary, and a time-limit by when any necessary measures need to be taken by the Member State concerned to address any issues of capacity and preparedness **as referred to in Article 13(1)**, as well as the shortcomings identified in the monitoring exercise. The Member State concerned shall be given an opportunity to comment on the draft recommendations within a **reasonable** time-limit indicated by the Agency. After duly taking into account those comments, the Executive Director shall submit findings and draft recommendations to the Management Board which shall, by a decision of two-thirds of its members with a right to vote, adopt those recommendations. The Agency shall inform the Commission about the implementation of the recommendations.

4. Where a Member State does not implement the measures outlined in the recommendations referred to in paragraph 3 within the indicated time-limit and the shortcomings in the asylum and reception systems of that Member State have serious consequences for the functioning of the CEAS, the Commission shall, based on its own assessment of the seriousness of the shortcomings, adopt recommendations addressed to that Member State identifying the measures needed to remedy the shortcomings, and where necessary specific measures to be taken by the Agency to support that Member State.
5. The Commission may, taking into account the seriousness of the shortcomings identified, organise on-site visits to the Member State concerned. The Commission shall provide the Member States concerned with sufficient prior notice of any such visit.
6. The Member State concerned shall report to the Commission on the implementation of the recommendations referred to in paragraph 4 within the time-limit set in those recommendations. If after that time-limit, the Member State has not complied with those recommendations, the Commission may make a proposal for a Council implementing act in accordance with Article 22(1).
7. The Commission shall inform the European Parliament and the Council on a regular basis about the progress made by the Member State concerned in the implementation of the recommendations referred to in paragraph 4.

CHAPTER 6

OPERATIONAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Article 16

Operational and technical assistance by the Agency

1. Member States may request the Agency for assistance in implementing their obligations with regard to the CEAS, in particular in situations of disproportionate pressure.
2. Without prejudice to Article 22, the Agency shall, at the request of the Member State or on its own initiative and with the agreement of the Member State concerned, organise and coordinate the appropriate operational and technical assistance, which may entail taking one or more of the following measures:
 - (a) assist Member States with the identification of third-country nationals and with receiving and registering applicants for international protection, in close cooperation with other Union Agencies as appropriate;
 - (b) facilitate the examination of applications for international protection that are under examination by the competent national authorities or provide them with the necessary assistance in the procedure for international protection;
 - (c) *deleted*
 - (d) facilitate joint initiatives of Member States in processing of applications for international protection;

- (e) assist with the provision of information on the international protection procedure;
 - (f) advise, assist or coordinate the setting up or the provision of reception facilities by the Member States, in particular emergency accommodation, transport and medical assistance;
 - [(g) assist with the tasks and obligations set out in Regulation (EU) No XXX/XXX [the Dublin Regulation] as well as with relocation or transfer of applicants or beneficiaries of international protection within the Union;]
 - (h) provide interpretation services;
 - (i) assist Member States in ensuring that all the necessary child rights and child protection safeguards are in place, in particular as regards unaccompanied minors;
 - (j) assist Member States in identifying applicants with special procedural or reception needs and in ensuring that all the necessary safeguards for those applicants are in place;
 - (k) cooperate with other relevant Union Agencies and Member States when forming part of the migration management support teams at hotspot areas referred to in Regulation No 2016/1624.¹³
3. The Agency shall finance or co-finance the activities set out in paragraph 2 from its budget in accordance with the financial rules applicable to the Agency.
4. The Executive Director shall evaluate the result of the operational and technical measures and shall transmit detailed evaluation reports to the Management Board within 60 days from the end of the implementation of those measures. The Agency shall make a comprehensive comparative analysis of those results which shall be included in the annual report referred to in Article 65.

¹³ OJ L 251, 16.9.2016, p.1.

Article 17 deleted

Article 18 deleted

Article 20

Procedure for providing operational and technical assistance

1. For the purposes of Article 16(1), Member States shall submit a request for assistance to the Executive Director describing the situation and the purpose of the request. The request shall be accompanied by a detailed assessment of needs and, as appropriate, the measures already taken at national level.
2. Where the asylum or reception systems are subject to disproportionate pressure the Agency shall, at the request of the Member State concerned or on its own initiative and with the prior agreement of the Member State concerned, organise and coordinate, in close cooperation with that Member State, a comprehensive set of operational and technical measures as referred to in Article 16(2).
3. The Executive Director shall evaluate, approve and coordinate requests for assistance and deployment of asylum support teams made in accordance with paragraph (1) or (2). The Executive Director shall immediately notify the Management Board of any such request.
4. Each request for assistance shall be subject to a thorough and reliable assessment enabling the Agency to identify and propose a set of measures as referred to in Article 16(2) that can meet the needs of the Member State concerned. If necessary, the Executive Director may send experts from the Agency to assess the situation of the Member State requiring assistance.

5. The Executive Director shall take a decision on the provision of operational and technical assistance and deployment of asylum support teams within three working days from the date of receipt of the request or agreement of the Member State concerned as referred to in paragraphs 1 or 2, or within 5 working days from that same date where experts are sent to the Member State concerned as referred to in paragraph 4. The Executive Director shall at the same time notify the Member State concerned and the Management Board of the decision in writing stating the main reasons on which the decision is based.

Article 19

Operational plan

1. The Executive Director and the host Member State shall draw up an operational plan. The Executive Director and the host Member State shall agree on an operational plan within ten working days from the day on which the decision referred to in Article 20(5) is taken, or within five working days from the day of such a decision in the cases referred to in Article 20(2). The participating Member States shall be consulted on the operational plan through the national contact points referred to in Article 24.
2. The operational plan shall be binding on the Agency, the host and the participating Member States. It shall set out in detail the conditions for the deployment of the asylum support teams within the provision of the operational and technical assistance as referred to in Article 16(2) as well as organisational aspects, including the following:
 - (a) a description of the situation, with the modus operandi and objectives of the deployment, including the operational objective;
 - (b) the foreseeable duration of the deployment;

- (c) the location in the host Member State where the asylum support teams shall be deployed;
- (d) logistical arrangements including information on working conditions for the asylum support teams;
- (e) a detailed and clear description of the tasks to be carried out in close cooperation with the responsible national authorities and special instructions for the asylum support teams, including as regards the national and European databases that they are authorised to consult and the equipment that they may use or carry in the host Member State;
- (f) the composition of the asylum support teams in terms of profiles and number of experts;
- (g) the technical equipment, including specific provisions such as conditions of use, transport and other logistics and financial provisions;
- (h) capacity-building activities related to the operational and technical assistance being provided;
- (i) regarding assistance with applications for international protection, including as regards the examination of such applications, and without prejudice to the competence of Member States to decide on individual applications, specific information on the tasks that the asylum support teams may perform as well as reference to applicable national and Union law;
- (j) a reporting and evaluation scheme containing benchmarks for the evaluation report and final date of submission of the final evaluation report;
- (k) where appropriate, modalities of cooperation with third countries, other Union agencies, bodies, offices or international organisations;
- (l) measures for the referral of persons in need of international protection, victims of trafficking in human beings, unaccompanied minors and persons in a vulnerable situation to the competent national authorities for appropriate assistance.

3. Having regard to point (e) of paragraph 2, the host Member State shall authorise experts from the asylum support teams to consult European databases and it may authorise them to consult its national databases in accordance with relevant Union and national law on access and consultation of those databases, and as necessary to achieve the objectives and perform the tasks outlined in the operational plan.
4. Any amendments to or adaptations of the operational plan shall require the agreement of the Executive Director and the host Member State, after consultation of the participating Member States. The Agency shall immediately send a copy of the amended or adapted operational plan to the national contact point of participating Member States referred to in Article 24.
5. The Executive Director shall, after informing the host Member State, suspend or terminate the deployment of the asylum support teams if the conditions to carry out the operational and technical measures are no longer fulfilled or if the operational plan is not respected by the host Member State. The Executive Director may request the home Member State to arrange for the removal of the deployed expert to the asylum support teams in case of misconduct or infringement of the applicable rules. In such cases, the expert concerned shall not be considered for future deployments.

Article 19A

Composition of asylum support teams

1. The Executive Director shall determine the composition of each asylum support team which shall be constituted in accordance with the operational plan. The asylum support teams shall consist of experts from the Agency's own staff, experts from Member States or experts seconded by Member States to the Agency. For the purpose of composing the asylum support teams, the Executive Director shall take into account the particular circumstances of the Member State concerned.

2. On the basis of annual bilateral negotiations between the Agency and the Member States, the Management Board shall, on a proposal by the Executive Director, decide on the profiles and the overall number of experts to be made available by each Member State for the asylum support teams. The same procedure shall apply to any subsequent changes in the profiles and the overall number of experts.
3. Member States shall contribute to the asylum support teams through the nomination of national experts who correspond to the required profiles and numbers as decided upon by the Management Board in accordance with paragraph 2. Member States shall make their own experts or experts seconded to the Agency available for deployment at the request of the Agency unless they are faced with an exceptional situation substantially affecting the discharge of national tasks. The specific situation and available resources of the Member States shall be taken into account.
4. The Agency shall contribute to the asylum support teams primarily with experts from its own staff, including experts employed for field work and interpreters who may be recruited in the host Member States.
5. As part of the asylum support teams, the Agency shall set up a list of interpreters. Member States shall assist the Agency in identifying interpreters for the list of interpreters, including individuals who do not form part of the national administration of Member States. Assistance with interpretation may be provided through the deployment of interpreters in the Member State concerned or, where appropriate, via video-conferencing.

6. [...]

An asylum reserve pool of a minimum of 500 persons shall be set up for the purposes of deploying asylum support teams under Article 20(2) and Article 22. That pool shall constitute a reserve of experts to be placed at the immediate disposal of the Agency **upon its request**. For that purpose, each Member State shall make available to the Agency a number of experts and shall be responsible for its contribution to the number of experts in accordance with the Annex. The Management Board shall, on a proposal of the Executive Director, decide by a three-fourths majority of members with a right to vote on the profiles of expert of the asylum reserve pool. The same procedure shall apply to any subsequent changes in the profiles of experts.

- 6a. A Member State may request the Management Board in writing to be temporarily exempted from the obligation to contribute experts to the asylum reserve pool referred to in paragraph 6. Such a request shall provide comprehensive reasons and information on the situation in that Member State. The Management Board shall decide by a majority of three-fourths of members with the right to vote to temporarily exempt that Member State from part of its contribution fixed by the decision of the Management Board referred to in Article 19a(6).

19B Deployment of asylum support teams

1. The Agency shall deploy asylum support teams to Member States to provide operational and technical assistance in accordance with Articles 20(1), 20(2), 21 and 22.
2. As soon as the operational plan is agreed, the Executive Director shall request the Member States to deploy the experts within no more than fifteen working days. The Executive Director shall indicate the number and profiles required from the Member States. That information shall be provided, in writing, to the national contact points referred to in Article 24 and shall specify the scheduled date of deployment. A copy of the operational plan shall also be sent to those national contact points.

3. *deleted*
4. For the purposes of Article 20(2) and Article 22, the Executive Director shall deploy asylum support teams from the asylum reserve pool as referred to in Article 19a(6). The deployment of experts from the asylum reserve pool shall take place within ten working days from when the operational plan is agreed upon as referred to in Article 19(1) and Article 22(2).
5. Member States shall, without undue delay, make the experts from the asylum reserve pool available for deployment at the request of the Agency. The host Member State shall not deploy experts forming part of its fixed contribution to that pool. If there is a shortage of experts for deployment in the asylum reserve pool, the Management Board shall, on a proposal of the Executive Director, decide how that shortage is to be filled.
6. The duration of deployment shall be determined by the home Member State but it shall not be less than 30 days, unless the particular operational and technical assistance is required for a shorter duration.

Article 21

Migration management support teams

1. Where a Member State requests operational and technical reinforcement by migration management support teams as referred to in Article 18 of Regulation No 2016/1624 or where migration management support teams are deployed at hotspot areas based on Article 19 of Regulation No 2016/1624, the Executive Director shall ensure coordination of the Agency's activities in the migration management support teams with the Commission and with other relevant Union agencies, in particular, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency.

2. The Executive Director shall, as appropriate, launch the procedure for deployment of asylum support teams. The operational and technical reinforcement provided by the asylum support teams in the framework of the migration management support teams may include:
 - (a) assistance in screening of third-country nationals, including their identification, registration, and where requested by Member States, their fingerprinting and provision of information of the purpose of those procedures;
 - (b) the provision of initial information to third-country nationals who wish to make an application for international protection and their referral to the competent national authorities of the Member States;
 - (c) the provision of information to applicants for international protection on asylum procedures, including relocation and appropriate assistance to applicants or potential applicants that could be subject to relocation;
 - (d) the registration of applications for international protection and, where requested by Member States, the examination of such applications.

Article 22

Disproportionate pressure on the asylum and reception systems

1. Where the asylum or reception systems are subject to disproportionate pressure that places exceptionally heavy and urgent demands on those systems and which are rendered ineffective to the extent of having serious consequences for the functioning of the CEAS and
 - (a) a Member State does not take sufficient action to address that pressure, including by not requesting the Agency for operational and technical assistance or not agreeing to an initiative of the Agency for such assistance; or

(b) a Member State does not comply with the Commission's recommendations referred to in Article 14(4),

the Council, on the basis of a proposal from the Commission, may adopt without delay a decision by means of an implementing act, identifying one or more of the measures set out in Article 16(2) to be taken by the Agency to support the Member State concerned and requiring the Member State to cooperate with the Agency in the implementation of those measures.

2. The Executive Director shall, within three working days from the date of adoption of the Council decision, determine the details of the practical implementation of the Council decision. In parallel, the Executive Director shall draw up the operational plan and submit it to the Member State concerned. The Executive Director and the Member State concerned shall agree on the operational plan within three working days from the date of its submission.
3. The Agency shall deploy the necessary experts from the asylum reserve pool, as well as experts from its own staff in accordance with Article 19B(4). The Agency may deploy additional asylum support teams as necessary.
4. The Member State concerned shall comply with the Council decision. For that purpose, it shall immediately cooperate with the Agency and take the necessary action to facilitate the implementation of that decision and the practical execution of the measures set out in that decision and in the operational plan, **without prejudice to its competence for deciding on individual applications.**
5. For the purposes of this Article, the Member States shall make available the experts from the asylum reserve pool as determined by the Executive Director and may not invoke the situation referred to in Article 19A(3) and Article 19A (6a). The host Member State where experts from the asylum reserve pool are deployed shall not deploy experts forming part of its fixed contribution to that pool.

Article 23

Technical equipment

1. Without prejudice to the obligation of host Member State to provide the necessary facilities and equipment for the Agency to be able to provide the required operational and technical assistance, the Agency may deploy its own equipment to the host Member State to the extent that this may be needed by the asylum support teams and insofar as this may complement equipment already made available by the host Member State or other Union agencies.
2. The Agency may acquire or lease technical equipment by decision of the Executive Director, in consultation with the Management Board. Any acquisition or leasing of equipment shall be preceded by a thorough needs and cost/benefit analysis. Any such expenditure shall be provided for in the Agency's budget as adopted by the Management Board and in accordance with the financial rules applicable to the Agency.

Article 24

National contact point for operational and technical assistance

Each Member State shall appoint a national contact point for communication with the Agency on all matters relating to the operational and technical assistance referred to in Articles 16 and 22.

Coordinating officer of the Agency

1. The Agency shall ensure the operational implementation of all the organisational aspects, including the presence of staff members of the Agency, deployment of asylum support teams throughout the provision of operational and technical assistance.
2. The Executive Director shall appoint one or more experts from the staff of the Agency to act or to be deployed as a coordinating officer for the purposes of paragraph 1. The Executive Director shall notify the host Member State of such designations.
3. The coordinating officer shall foster cooperation and coordination between the host Member State and the participating Member States. In particular, the coordinating officer shall:
 - (a) act on behalf of the Agency on all aspects of the deployment of the asylum support teams and report to the Agency on all those aspects;
 - (b) act as an interface between the Agency, the host Member State and experts of the asylum support teams, providing assistance, on behalf of the Agency, on all issues relating to their conditions of deployment;
 - (c) monitor the correct implementation of the operational plan;
 - (d) report to the Executive Director where the operational plan is not adequately implemented.
4. The Executive Director may authorise the coordinating officer to assist in resolving any disputes concerning the implementation of the operational plan and the deployment of asylum support teams.

5. In discharging his or her duties, the coordinating officer shall work in close cooperation with the competent national authorities and shall take instructions only from the Executive Director.

Article 26

Civil liability

1. Where experts of an asylum support team are operating in a host Member State, that Member State shall be liable in accordance with its national law for any damage caused by them during their operations.
2. Where such damage is caused by gross negligence or wilful misconduct, the host Member State may address the home Member State or the Agency to obtain reimbursement of any sums it has paid to the victims or persons entitled on their behalf from the home Member State or the Agency.
3. Without prejudice to the exercise of its rights vis-à-vis third parties, each Member State shall waive all its claims against the host Member State or any other Member State for any damage it has sustained, except in cases of gross negligence or wilful misconduct.
4. Any dispute between Member States or with the Agency relating to the application of paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article which cannot be resolved by negotiations between them shall be submitted by them to the Court of Justice of the European Union in accordance with Article 273 of the Treaty.

5. Without prejudice to the exercise of its rights vis-à-vis third parties, the Agency shall meet costs relating to damage caused to the Agency's equipment during deployment, except in cases of gross negligence or wilful misconduct.

Article 27

Criminal liability

During the deployment of an asylum support team, those experts shall be treated in the same way as officials of the host Member State with regard to any criminal offences that might be committed against them or by them.

Article 28

Costs

1. The Agency shall meet the costs incurred by experts deployed to asylum support teams, in particular:
 - (a) travel from the home Member State to the host Member State, from the host Member State to the home Member State and within the host Member State for the purposes of deployment;
 - (b) costs related to vaccinations;
 - (c) costs related to special insurance needs;
 - (d) costs related to health care;
 - (e) daily subsistence allowances, including accommodation and transportation costs;

- (f) costs related to the Agency's technical equipment;
 - (g) experts' fees.
2. The Management Board shall establish detailed rules and update them as necessary as regards the payment of the daily subsistence allowance of experts deployed by Member States to the asylum support teams.

CHAPTER 7

INFORMATION EXCHANGE AND DATA PROTECTION

Article 29

Information exchange systems

1. The Agency shall facilitate the exchange of information relevant to its tasks with the Commission and the Member States and, where appropriate, the relevant Union bodies, offices and agencies.

2. The Agency shall, in cooperation with the European agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice established by Regulation (EU) No 1077/2011,¹⁴ develop and operate an information system capable of exchanging classified information with the actors referred to in paragraph 1, as well as personal data referred to in Articles 31 and 32 in accordance with Council Decision 2013/488¹⁵ and Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444.¹⁶

Article 30

Data Protection

1. The Agency shall apply Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 when processing personal data.
2. The Management Board shall establish measures for the application of Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 by the Agency, including those concerning the appointment of a Data Protection Officer of the Agency. Those measures shall be established after consultation of the European Data Protection Supervisor.
3. Without prejudice to Articles 31 and 32, the Agency may process personal data for the necessary administrative purposes related to personnel.
4. Without prejudice to Article 35(4), the transfer of personal data processed by the Agency and the onward transfer by Member States to authorities of third countries or third parties, including international organisations, of personal data processed in the framework of this Regulation shall be prohibited.

¹⁴ Regulation (EU) No 1077/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 establishing a European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice (OJ L 286, 1.11.2011, p. 1).

¹⁵ Council Decision 2013/488/EU of 23 September 2013 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 274, 15.10.2013, p. 1).

¹⁶ Commission Decision 2015/444 (EU, Euratom) 2015/444 of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

Purposes of processing personal data

1. The Agency may process personal data only for the following purposes:
 - (a) performing its tasks of providing operational and technical assistance in accordance with Articles 16(2) and 21(2);
 - (b) when carrying out case sampling for the purposes of the monitoring exercise referred to in Article 13;
 - (c) *deleted*
 - (d) facilitating the exchange of information with Member States, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, Europol or Eurojust in accordance with Article 36 and in the framework of information obtained when performing the tasks listed in Article 21(2);
 - (e) analysing information on the situation of asylum in accordance with Article 4.
2. Any such processing of personal data shall respect the principle of proportionality and be strictly limited to personal data necessary for the purposes referred to in paragraph 1.
3. Member States or other Union bodies, offices and agencies providing personal data to the Agency shall only transfer data to the Agency for the purposes referred to in paragraph 1. Any further processing of retained personal data for purposes other than those referred to in paragraph 1 shall be prohibited.

4. Member States or other Union bodies, offices and agencies may indicate, at the moment of transferring personal data, any restriction on access or use, in general or specific terms, including as regards transfer, erasure or destruction. Where the need for such restriction becomes apparent after the transfer provision of information, they shall inform the Agency accordingly. The Agency shall comply with such restrictions.

Article 32

Processing of personal data collected when providing operational and technical assistance

1. The processing by the Agency of personal data collected by or transmitted to it by the Member States or by its own staff when providing operational and technical assistance to Member States shall be limited to the full name, date and place of birth, places of former residence, gender, nationality, profession, education, family links, fingerprints and digitised photograph of third-country nationals.
2. Personal data referred to in paragraph 1 may be processed by the Agency in the following cases:
 - (a) where necessary for the identification of third-country nationals and registration of applicants for international protection referred to in Article 16(2)(a);
 - (b) where necessary to facilitate the examination of applications for international protection that are under examination by the competent national authorities or to provide them with necessary assistance in the procedure for international protection as referred to in Article 16(2)(b);
 - (c) *deleted*

- [(d) where necessary to assist with the tasks and obligations set out in Regulation (EU) No XXX/XXX [the Dublin Regulation] relocation or transfer of applicants or beneficiaries of international protection within the Union as referred to in Article 16(2)(g);]
 - (e) where transmission to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, Europol or Eurojust is necessary for the performance of their tasks in accordance with their respective mandates and in accordance with Article 30;
 - (f) where transmission to the Member States' authorities or immigration and asylum services is necessary for use in accordance with national legislation and national and Union data protection rules;
 - (g) where necessary for analysis of information on the situation of asylum as referred to in Article 4.
 - (h) where necessary to coordinate actions on resettlement taken by the Union or to assist Member States in their actions on resettlement as referred in Article 35(4).
- 2a. In addition to the data listed in paragraph 1, the Agency may process personal data on sexual orientation, gender identity and religion of the applicant provided that the personal data is only processed for the purposes of paragraph 2(b).
3. The personal data shall be deleted as soon as they have been transmitted to the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, Europol or Eurojust or to the competent authorities of Member States or used for information analysis on the situation of asylum. The storage period shall in any case not exceed 30 days after the date on which the Agency collects or receives those data. In the result of the information analysis on the situation of asylum, data shall be anonymised.

CHAPTER 8

COOPERATION BY THE AGENCY

Article 33

Cooperation with Denmark

The Agency shall facilitate operational cooperation with Denmark, including the exchange of information and best practices in matters covered by its activities.

Article 34

Cooperation with associate countries

1. The Agency shall be open to the participation of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.
2. The nature, extent and manner in which those countries are to participate in the Agency's work shall be defined by relevant working arrangements. Such arrangements shall include provisions relating to participation in initiatives undertaken by the Agency, financial contributions, participation in the meetings of the Management Board and staff. As regards staff matters, those arrangements shall, in any event, comply with the Staff Regulations.

Cooperation with third countries

1. In matters related to its activities and, to the extent required for the fulfilment of its tasks, the Agency shall facilitate and encourage operational cooperation between Member States and third countries, within the framework of the Union's external relations policy, including with regard to the protection of fundamental rights, and in cooperation with the European External Action Service. The Agency and the Member States shall promote and comply with norms and standards which form part of Union legislation, including when carrying out activities on the territory of those third countries.
2. The Agency may cooperate with the authorities of third countries competent in matters covered by this Regulation with the support of and in coordination with Union delegations, in particular with a view to promoting Union standards on asylum and assisting third countries as regards expertise and capacity building for their own asylum and reception systems as well as implementing regional development and protection programmes and other actions. The Agency may carry out such cooperation within the framework of working arrangements concluded with those authorities in accordance with Union law and policy. The Management Board shall decide on the working arrangements which shall be subject to prior approval of the Commission. The Agency shall inform the European Parliament and the Council of any such arrangements.
3. The Executive Director may, with the agreement of the host Member State, invite officials from third countries to observe the operational and technical measures outlined in Article 16(2), where their presence does not jeopardise the achievement of objectives of those measures, and where it may contribute to improving cooperation and the exchange of best practices.

4. [In the framework of cooperation with third countries, the Agency may support Member States in the implementation of:
- (a) the Union Resettlement Framework established by Regulation (EU) No XXX/XXX [Union Resettlement Framework Regulation] [in accordance with that Regulation];
 - (b) national resettlement schemes, upon the request of the Member State concerned, provided that such support does not jeopardise the attainment of the Union's objectives under Regulation (EU) No XXX/XXX [Union Resettlement Framework Regulation].]
5. The Agency shall, where appropriate, participate in the implementation of international agreements concluded by the Union with third countries, within the framework of the external relations policy of the Union, and regarding matters covered by this Regulation.
6. The Agency may benefit from Union funding in accordance with the provisions of the relevant instruments supporting the external relations policy of the Union. It may launch and finance technical assistance projects in third countries regarding matters covered by this Regulation.

Article 36

Cooperation with Union agencies, bodies and offices

1. The Agency shall cooperate with agencies, bodies and offices of the Union having activities relating to its field of activity, in particular the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, Europol, Eurojust and eu-LISA which are competent in matters covered by this Regulation.
2. Such cooperation shall take place within the framework of working arrangements concluded with those bodies, after having received the Commission's approval. The Agency shall inform the European Parliament and the Council of any such arrangements.

3. The cooperation shall create synergies among the relevant Union bodies and it shall prevent any duplication of effort in the work carried out by each one of them pursuant to their mandate.

Article 37

Cooperation with the UNHCR and other international organisations

The Agency shall cooperate with international organisations, in particular UNHCR, in areas governed by this Regulation, within the framework of working arrangements concluded with those bodies, in accordance with the Treaty and the provisions on the competence of those bodies. The Management Board shall decide on the working arrangements which shall be subject to prior approval of the Commission. The Agency shall inform the European Parliament and the Council of any such arrangements.

CHAPTER 9

ORGANISATION OF THE AGENCY

Article 38

Administrative and management structure

The Agency's administrative and management structure shall comprise:

- (a) a Management Board, which shall exercise the functions set out in Article 40;
- (b) an Executive Director, who shall exercise the responsibilities set out in Article 46;
- (c) a Deputy Executive Director, as established in Article 47.

Article 39

Composition of the Management Board

1. The Management Board shall be composed of one representative from each Member State and two representatives of the Commission, which shall have the right to vote.
2. The Management Board shall include one representative of UNHCR, without the right to vote.
3. Each member of the Management Board shall have an alternate. The alternate shall represent the member in his or her absence.
4. Members of the Management Board and their alternates shall be appointed in the light of their knowledge and expertise in the field of asylum, taking into account relevant managerial, administrative and budgetary skills. All parties shall aim to achieve a balanced representation between men and women on the Management Board.
5. The term of office for members of the Management Board shall be four years. That term shall be extendable. On the expiry of their term of office or in the event of their resignation, members shall remain in office until their appointments are extended or until they are replaced.

Article 40

Functions of the Management Board

1. The Management Board shall be the Agency's planning and monitoring body. It shall give general orientation for the Agency's activities and ensure that the Agency performs its tasks. It shall, in particular:
 - (a) *deleted*

- (b) adopt the annual budget of the Agency by a majority of two-thirds of members entitled to vote and exercise other functions in respect of the Agency's budget pursuant to Chapter 10;
- (c) adopt a consolidated annual activity report on the Agency's activities and send it, by 1 July each year, to the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission and the Court of Auditors. The consolidated annual activity report shall be made public;
- (d) adopt the financial rules applicable to the Agency in accordance with Article 53;
- (e) take all decisions for the purpose of fulfilling the Agency's mandate as laid down in this Regulation;
- (f) adopt an anti-fraud strategy, proportionate to the risk of fraud taking into account the costs and benefits of the measures to be implemented;
- (g) adopt rules for the prevention and management of conflicts of interest in respect of its members;
- (h) adopt and regularly update the communication and dissemination plans referred to in Article 2(3), based on an analysis of needs;
- (i) adopt its rules of procedure;
- (j) exercise, in accordance with paragraph 2, with respect to the staff of the Agency, the powers conferred by the Staff Regulations on the Appointing Authority and by the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants on the Authority Empowered to Conclude a Contract of Employment¹⁷ (appointing authority);

¹⁷ Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 259/68 of the Council of 29 February 1968 laying down the Staff Regulations of Officials and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Communities and instituting special measures temporarily applicable to officials of the Commission (OJ L 56, 4.3.1968, p. 1)

- (k) adopt appropriate implementing rules for giving effect to the Staff Regulations and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants in accordance with Article 110 of the Staff Regulations;
- (l) appoint the Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director, exercise disciplinary authority over him or her and, where necessary, extend his or her term of office or remove him or her from office in accordance with Articles 45 and 47;
- (m) adopt an annual report on the situation of asylum in the Union in accordance with Article 65. That report shall be presented to the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission;
- (n) take all decisions on the development of the information systems provided for in this Regulation, including the information portal referred to Article 8(2)(b);
- (o) adopt the detailed rules for applying Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 in accordance with Article 58;
- (p) adopt the Agency's staff policy in accordance with Article 55;
- (q) adopt each year the Agency's programming document in accordance with Article 41;
- (r) take all decisions on the establishment of the Agency's internal structures and, where necessary, their modification;
- (s) ensure adequate follow-up to findings and recommendations stemming from the internal or external audit reports and evaluations, as well as from investigations of the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF);
- (t) adopt the operational standards, indicators, guidelines and best practices developed by the Agency in accordance with Article 12(2);
- (u) endorse the guidance notes concerning country of origin information and any review or update of those guidance notes in accordance with Article 10(2) and (3);

- (uu) adopt a decision establishing a common methodology for the monitoring mechanism referred to in Article 13;
 - (v) adopt the programme for monitoring the operational and technical application of the CEAS in accordance with Article 14(1), and endorse the composition of the teams of experts as set up by the Executive Director in accordance with point (na) of Article 46(5);
 - (w) *deleted*
 - (x) adopt the recommendations following a monitoring exercise in accordance with Article 14(3);
 - (y) set up and decide on the profiles and overall numbers of experts to be made available for the asylum support teams including for the asylum reserve pool in accordance with Article 19A(2) and 19A(6);
 - (z) *deleted*
 - (aa) adopt a strategy for relations with third countries or international organisations concerning matters for which the Agency is competent, as well as a working arrangement with the Commission for its implementation;
 - (bb) authorise and approve the conclusion of working arrangements in accordance with Articles 35, 36 and 37.
2. The Management Board shall adopt, in accordance with Article 110 of the Staff Regulations, a decision based on Article 2(1) of the Staff Regulations and on Article 6 of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants, delegating relevant appointing authority powers to the Executive Director and defining the conditions under which this delegation of powers can be suspended. The Executive Director shall be authorised to sub-delegate those powers.

Where exceptional circumstances so require, the Management Board may, by way of a decision, temporarily suspend the delegation of the appointing authority powers to the Executive Director and those sub-delegated by the latter and exercise them itself or delegate them to one of its members or to a staff member other than the Executive Director.

3. The Management Board may establish a small-sized Executive Board to assist it and the Executive Director with regard to the preparation of decisions, programmes and activities to be adopted by the Management Board. When necessary, the Executive Board may take certain provisional, urgent decisions on behalf of the Management Board, in particular on administrative management matters. The Executive Board shall not take decisions that must be passed by either a majority of two-thirds or three-fourths of the Management Board. The Management Board may delegate certain clearly defined tasks to the Executive Board, in particular where this improves the efficiency of the Agency. It may not delegate to the Executive Board tasks related to the decisions that must be passed by either a majority of two-thirds or three-fourths of the Management Board. For the purposes of establishing the Executive Board, the Management Board shall establish its rules of procedure which shall in particular cover its composition and functions.

Article 41

Multi-annual programming and annual work programmes

1. By 30 November each year, the Management Board shall adopt, by a majority of two-thirds of members entitled to vote, a programming document containing the multi-annual and annual programming, based on a draft put forward by the Executive Director, taking into account the opinion of the Commission and for the multi-annual programming, after consulting the European Parliament. The Management Board shall forward the draft programming document to the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission.

The programming document shall become definitive after final adoption of the general budget and if necessary shall be adjusted accordingly.

A draft version of the programming document shall be sent to the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission no later than 31 January each year as well as any later updated version of that document.

2. The multi-annual programming shall set out the overall strategic programming in the medium and long-term including objectives, expected results and performance indicators. It shall also set out resource programming including multi-annual budget and staff.

The multi-annual programming shall set the strategic areas of intervention and explain what needs to be done to achieve the objectives. It shall include the strategy for relations with third countries or international organisations referred to in Articles 35 and 37, respectively, and the actions linked to that strategy, as well as specification of associated resources.

The multi-annual programming shall be implemented by means of annual work programmes and it shall be updated annually. The multi-annual programming shall be updated where appropriate, and in particular to address the outcome of the evaluation referred to in Article 66.

3. The annual work programme shall comprise detailed objectives and expected results including performance indicators. It shall also contain a description of the actions to be financed and an indication of the financial and human resources allocated to each activity, in accordance with the principles of the activity-based budgeting and management. The annual work programme shall be consistent with the multi-annual programming referred to in paragraph 2. It shall clearly indicate the tasks that have been added, changed or deleted in comparison with the previous financial year.

4. The Management Board shall amend the adopted annual work programme when a new task is given to the Agency.

Any substantial amendment to the annual work programme shall be adopted by the same procedure as the initial annual work programme. The Management Board may delegate the power to make non-substantial amendments to the annual work programme to the Executive Director.

Article 42

Chairperson of the Management Board

1. The Management Board shall elect a Chairperson and a Deputy Chairperson from its members with voting rights. The Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson shall be elected by a majority of two-thirds of the members of the Management Board with voting rights.

The Deputy Chairperson shall automatically replace the Chairperson if he or she is prevented from attending to his or her duties.

2. The term of office of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson shall be four years. Their term of office may be renewed once. If, however, their membership of the Management Board ends at any time during their term of office, their term of office shall automatically expire on that date.

Meetings of the Management Board

1. The Chairperson shall convene meetings of the Management Board.
2. The Executive Director shall take part in the deliberations, without the right to vote.
3. The representative of UNHCR shall not take part in the meeting when the Management Board performs the functions laid down in points (f), (g), (j), (k), (l), (o), (p), (q), (r) and (s) of Article 40(1) and in Article 40(2), and when the Management Board decides to make financial resources available for financing UNHCR activities enabling the Agency to benefit from the its expertise as provided for in Article 49.
4. The Management Board shall hold at least two ordinary meetings a year. In addition, it shall meet on the initiative of its Chairperson, at the request of the Commission, or at the request of one-third of its members.
5. The Management Board may invite any person whose opinion may be of interest to attend its meetings as an observer.
6. Denmark shall be invited to attend the meetings of the Management Board.
7. The members and the alternates of the Management Board may, subject to the provisions of its Rules of Procedure, be assisted at the meetings by advisers or experts.
8. The Agency shall provide the secretariat for the Management Board.

Article 44

Voting rules of the Management Board

1. Unless otherwise provided, the Management Board shall take its decisions by an absolute majority of its members with voting rights.
2. Each member with voting rights shall have one vote. In the absence of a member with the right to vote, his or her alternate shall be entitled to exercise his or her right to vote.
3. The Chairperson shall take part in the voting.
4. The Executive Director shall not take part in the voting.
- 4a. Member States that do not fully participate in the acquis of the Union in the field of asylum shall not vote where the Management Board is called on to adopt operational standards, indicators, guidelines or best practices which relate exclusively to an asylum instrument of the Union by which they are not bound.
5. The Management Board's Rules of Procedure shall establish more detailed voting arrangements, in particular the circumstances in which a member may act on behalf of another member.

Article 45

Executive Director

1. The Executive Director shall be a member of staff and shall be recruited as a temporary agent of the Agency in accordance with Article 2(a) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants.

2. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Management Board from a list of candidates proposed by the Commission, following an open and transparent selection procedure. The Executive Director shall be appointed on the ground of merit and documented high-level administrative and management skills as well as senior professional experience in the field of migration and asylum.

For the purpose of concluding the contract with the Executive Director, the Agency shall be represented by the Chairperson of the Management Board.

3. Before appointment, the candidate selected by the Management Board may be invited to make a statement before the competent committee of the European Parliament and answer questions put by its members.
4. The term of office of the Executive Director shall be five years. By the end of that period, the Commission shall undertake an assessment that takes into account an evaluation of the Executive Director's performance and the Agency's future tasks and challenges.
5. The Management Board, acting on a proposal from the Commission that takes into account the assessment referred to in paragraph 4, may extend the term of office of the Executive Director once for no more than five years.
6. The Management Board shall inform the European Parliament if it intends to extend the Executive Director's term of office. Within one month before any such extension, the Executive Director may be invited to make a statement before the competent committee of the European Parliament and answer questions put by its members.
7. An Executive Director whose term of office has been extended may not participate in another selection procedure for the same post at the end of the overall period.

8. The Executive Director may be removed from office only upon a decision of the Management Board acting on a proposal from the Commission.
9. The Management Board shall take decisions on appointment, extension of the term of office or removal from office of the Executive Director by a two-thirds majority of its members with the right to vote.

Article 46

Responsibilities of the Executive Director

1. The Executive Director shall manage the Agency. The Executive Director shall be accountable to the Management Board.
2. Without prejudice to the powers of the Commission and the Management Board, the Executive Director shall be independent in the performance of his or her duties and shall neither seek nor take instructions from any government, institution, person or any other body.
3. The Executive Director shall report to the European Parliament on the performance of his or her duties when invited to do so. The Council may invite the Executive Director to report on the performance of his or her duties.
4. The Executive Director shall be the legal representative of the Agency.
5. The Executive Director shall be responsible for the implementation of the tasks assigned to the Agency by this Regulation. In particular, the Executive Director shall be responsible for:
 - (a) the day-to-day administration of the Agency;
 - (b) implementing decisions adopted by the Management Board;
 - (c) preparing the programming document and submitting it to the Management Board after consulting the Commission;

- (d) implementing the programming document and reporting to the Management Board on its implementation;
- (e) preparing the consolidated annual report on the Agency's activities and presenting it to the Management Board for adoption;
- (f) preparing an action plan following-up conclusions of internal or external audit reports and evaluations, as well as investigations by the European Anti-fraud Office (OLAF) and reporting on progress twice a year to the Commission and regularly to the Management Board and to the Executive Board;
- (g) without prejudicing the investigative competence of OLAF, protecting the financial interests of the Union by applying preventive measures against fraud, corruption and any other illegal activities, by effective checks and, if irregularities are detected, by recovering amounts wrongly paid and, where appropriate, by imposing effective, proportionate and dissuasive administrative and financial penalties;
- (h) preparing an anti-fraud strategy for the Agency and presenting it to the Management Board for approval;
- (i) preparing the draft financial rules applicable to the Agency;
- (j) preparing the Agency's draft statement of estimates of revenue and expenditure and implementing its budget;
- (k) exercising the powers laid down in Article 55 in respect of the Agency's staff;
- (l) taking all decisions on the management of the information systems provided for in this Regulation, including the information portal referred to in Article 8(2)(b);

- (m) taking all decisions on the management of the Agency's internal structures;
- (ma) drafting reports on the situation in third countries as referred to in Article 8;
- (n) submitting the common analysis and guidance notes to the Management Board in accordance with Article 10(2);
- (na) set up teams of experts for the purpose of Articles 13 and 14 which shall be composed of experts from the Agency's own staff, the Commission and, where necessary, the Member States;
- (nb) initiate a monitoring exercise either on its own initiative, in consultation with the Commission, or at the request of the Commission in accordance with Article 14(2);
- (o) submit the findings and draft recommendations in the context of the monitoring exercise to the Member State concerned and subsequently to the Management Board in accordance with Article 14(3);

[...]

- (p) evaluating, approving and coordinating requests for operational and technical assistance in accordance with Article 16(2) and Article 20;
- (q) ensuring the implementation of the operational plan referred to in Article 19;
- (r) ensuring coordination of the Agency's activities in the migration management support teams with the Commission and other relevant Union agencies in accordance with Article 21(1);
- (s) ensuring implementation of the Council decision referred to in Article 22(1);
- (t) deciding, in consultation with the Management Board, on the acquisition or lease of technical equipment in accordance with Article 23(2);

- (u) appointing a coordinating officer of the Agency in accordance with Article 25(1).

Article 47

Deputy Executive Director

1. A Deputy Executive Director shall assist the Executive Director in the management of the Agency and in the performance of his or her tasks as referred to in Article 46(5). If the Executive Director is absent or indisposed, the Deputy Executive Director shall take his or her place.
2. The Deputy Executive Director shall be appointed by the Management Board on a proposal of the Executive Director. The Deputy Executive Director shall be appointed on the grounds of merit and appropriate administrative and management skills, including relevant professional experience in the field of asylum. The Executive Director shall propose at least three candidates for the post of the Deputy Executive Director. The Management Board shall have the power to extend the term of office or to remove the Deputy Executive Director from office acting on the proposal from the Executive Director. The provisions of Article 45 (1), (4), (7) and (9) shall apply to the Deputy Executive Director.

Article 48

Consultative Forum

1. The Agency shall maintain a close dialogue with relevant civil society organisations and relevant competent bodies operating in the field of asylum policy at local, regional, national, Union or international level. For that purpose, the Agency shall set up a Consultative Forum.
2. The Consultative Forum shall constitute a mechanism for the exchange of information and sharing of knowledge. It shall ensure a close dialogue between the Agency and relevant organisations or bodies as referred to in paragraph 1.

3. The Agency shall invite the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, UNHCR and other relevant organisations or bodies as referred to in paragraph 1.

On a proposal by the Executive Director, the Management Board shall decide on the composition and working methods of the Consultative Forum, including thematic or geographic-focused consultation groups, and the modalities of transmission of information to the Consultative Forum.

4. The Consultative Forum shall advise the Executive Director and the Management Board in matters related to asylum, in accordance with specific needs in areas identified as a priority for the Agency's work.
5. The Consultative Forum shall, in particular:
 - (a) make suggestions to the Management Board on the annual and multi-annual programming referred to in Article 41;
 - (b) provide feedback to the Management Board and suggest measures as follow-up to the annual report on the situation of asylum in the Union referred to in Article 65; and
 - (c) communicate to the Executive Director and the Management Board conclusions and recommendations of conferences, seminars and meetings, as well as on findings from studies or field work carried out by any of the member organisations or bodies of the Consultative Forum which is relevant to the work of the Agency.
6. The Consultative Forum shall meet at least once a year.

CHAPTER 10

FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Article 49

Budget

1. Estimates of the revenue and expenditure of the Agency shall be prepared each financial year, corresponding to the calendar year, and shall be shown in the Agency's budget.
2. The Agency's budget shall be balanced in terms of revenue and of expenditure.
3. Without prejudice to other resources, the Agency's revenue shall comprise:
 - (a) a contribution from the Union entered in the general budget of the European Union;
 - (b) Union funding in the form of delegation agreements or ad hoc grants in accordance with its financial rules referred to in Article 53 and with the provisions of the relevant instruments supporting the policies of the Union;
 - (c) any voluntary financial contribution from the Member States;
 - (d) any contribution from the associated countries;
 - (e) charges for publications and any service provided by the Agency;
4. The expenditure of the Agency shall include staff remuneration, administrative and infrastructure expenses as well as operating expenditure.

Article 50

Establishment of the budget

1. Each year the Executive Director shall draw up a provisional draft statement of estimates of the Agency's revenue and expenditure for the following financial year, including the establishment plan, and send it to the Management Board.
2. The Management Board shall, on the basis of that provisional draft, adopt a provisional draft estimate of the Agency's revenue and expenditure for the following financial year.
3. The provisional draft estimate of the Agency's revenue and expenditure shall be sent to the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council by 31 January each year.
4. The Commission shall send the statement of estimates to the budgetary authority together with the draft general budget of the European Union.
5. On the basis of the statement of estimates, the Commission shall enter in the draft general budget of the European Union the estimates it considers necessary for the establishment plan and the amount of the subsidy to be charged to the general budget, which it shall place before the budgetary authority in accordance with Articles 313 and 314 of the Treaty.
6. The budgetary authority shall authorise the appropriations for the contribution to the Agency.
7. The budgetary authority shall adopt the Agency's establishment plan.

8. The Agency's budget shall be adopted by the Management Board. It shall become final following final adoption of the general budget of the European Union. Where necessary, it shall be adjusted accordingly.
9. For any building project likely to have significant implications for the budget of the Agency, the provisions of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1271/2013 ¹⁸ shall apply.

Article 51

Implementation of the budget

1. The Executive Director shall implement the Agency's budget.
2. Each year the Executive Director shall send to the budgetary authority all information relevant to the findings of evaluation procedures.

Article 52

Presentation of accounts and discharge

1. By 1 March of the following financial year, the Agency's accounting officer shall send the provisional accounts to the Commission's Accounting Officer and to the Court of Auditors.
2. By 31 March of the following financial year, the Agency shall send the report on the budgetary and financial management to the European Parliament, the Council and the Court of Auditors.

¹⁸ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1271/2013 of 30 September 2013 on the framework financial regulation for the bodies referred to in Article 208 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 328, 7.12.2013, p. 42).

By 31 March of the following financial year, the Commission's accounting officer shall send the Agency's provisional accounts, consolidated with the Commission's accounts, to the Court of Auditors.

3. On receipt of the Court of Auditors' observations on the Agency's provisional accounts pursuant to Article 148 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council,¹⁹ the Executive Director shall draw up the Agency's final accounts under his or her own responsibility and submit them to the Management Board for an opinion.
4. The Management Board shall deliver an opinion on the Agency's final accounts.
5. The Executive Director shall, by 1 July following each financial year, send the final accounts to the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission and the Court of Auditors, together with the Management Board's opinion.
6. The final accounts shall be published in the Official Journal of the European Union by 15 November of the following year.
7. The Executive Director shall send the Court of Auditors a reply to its observations by 30 September. The Executive Director shall also send this reply to the Management Board.
8. The Executive Director shall submit to the European Parliament, at the latter's request, any information required for the smooth application of the discharge procedure for the financial year in question, in accordance with Article 165(3) of the Financial Regulation.
9. On a recommendation from the Council acting by a qualified majority, the European Parliament shall, before 15 May of year N + 2, give a discharge to the Executive Director in respect of the implementation of the budget for year N.

¹⁹ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 (OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1).

Financial rules

1. The financial rules applicable to the Agency shall be adopted by the Management Board after consulting the Commission. They shall comply with Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1271/2013 except where a derogation from the provisions of that Regulation is specifically required for the Agency's operation and if the Commission has given its prior consent.
2. The Agency may award grants related to the fulfilment of the tasks referred to in Article 2, in accordance with this Regulation or by delegation of the Commission pursuant to Article 58(1)(c)(iv) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012.²⁰ The relevant provisions of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012²¹ shall apply.

²⁰ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 (OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1).

²¹ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

CHAPTER 11

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 54

Legal status

1. The Agency shall be a body of the Union. It shall have legal personality.
2. In each of the Member States, the Agency shall enjoy the most extensive legal capacity accorded to legal persons under their laws. It may, in particular, acquire and dispose of movable and immovable property and be a party to legal proceedings.
3. The Agency shall be independent as regards operational and technical matters.
4. The Agency shall be represented by its Executive Director.
5. The seat of the Agency shall be Malta.

Article 55

Staff

1. The Staff Regulations of Officials of the European Communities and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the Union and the rules adopted by agreement between the institutions of the Union for giving effect to those Staff Regulations and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants shall apply to the staff of the Agency.

2. The Management Board shall adopt appropriate implementing rules for giving effect to the Staff Regulations and the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants in accordance with Article 110 of the Staff Regulations.
3. The powers conferred on the appointing authority by the Staff Regulations and on the authority entitled to conclude contracts by the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants shall be exercised by the Agency in respect of its own staff.
4. The Agency may make use of seconded national experts or other staff not employed by the Agency. The Management Board shall adopt a decision laying down rules on the secondment of national experts to the Agency.
5. The Agency may employ staff to work in the field in Member States.

Article 56

Privileges and immunities

The Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Union shall apply to the Agency and its staff.

Article 57

Language arrangements

1. The provisions laid down in Council Regulation No 1 ²² shall apply to the Agency.
2. Without prejudice to decisions taken on the basis of Article 342 of the Treaty, the consolidated annual activity report on the Agency's activities and the programming document shall be produced in all the official languages of the institutions of the European Union.
3. The translation services required for the functioning of the Agency shall be provided by the Translation Centre of the bodies of the European Union.

Article 58

Transparency

1. Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 shall apply to documents held by the Agency.
2. The Agency may communicate on its own initiative in the fields within its mission. It shall make public the consolidated annual activity report and ensure in particular that the public and any interested party are rapidly given objective, reliable and easily understandable information with regard to its work.
3. The Management Board shall, within six months of the date of its first meeting, adopt the detailed rules for the application of paragraphs 1 and 2.

²² Regulation No 1 of 15 April 1958 determining the languages to be used in the European Economic Community (OJ 17, 6.10.1958, p. 385).

4. Any natural or legal person shall be entitled to address himself or herself in writing to the Agency in any official language of the Union. He or she shall have the right to receive an answer in the same language.
5. Decisions taken by the Agency pursuant to Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 may be subject to a complaint to the Ombudsman or an action before the Court of Justice of the European Union, under the conditions laid down in Articles 228 and 263 of the Treaty respectively.

Article 59

Combating fraud

1. In order to facilitate combating fraud, corruption and other unlawful activities Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council²³ shall apply without restriction. The Agency shall accede to the Inter-institutional Agreement of 25 May 1999 concerning internal investigations by the European Anti-fraud Office (OLAF) and adopt appropriate provisions applicable to all the employees of the Agency using the template set out in the Annex to that Agreement.
2. The European Court of Auditors shall have the power of audit, on the basis of documents and on the spot, over all grant beneficiaries, contractors and subcontractors who have received Union funds from the Agency.

²³ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18.9.2013, p. 1).

3. OLAF may carry out investigations, including on-the-spot checks and inspections with a view to establishing whether there has been fraud, corruption or any other illegal activity affecting the financial interests of the Union in connection with a grant or a contract funded by the Agency, in accordance with the provisions and procedures laid down in Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2185/96.²⁴
4. Without prejudice to paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, cooperation agreements with third countries and international organisations, contracts, grant agreements and grant decisions of the Agency shall contain provisions expressly empowering the European Court of Auditors and OLAF to conduct such audits and investigations, according to their respective competences.

Article 60

Security rules on the protection of classified information and sensitive non-classified information

1. The Agency shall apply the Commission's rules on security as set out in Commission Decisions (EU, Euratom) 2015/443 ²⁵ and 2015/444.²⁶ Those rules shall apply, in particular, to the exchange, processing and storage of classified information.
2. The Agency shall also apply the security principles relating to the processing of non-classified sensitive information as set out in the Decisions referred to in paragraph 1 and as implemented by the Commission. The Management Board shall establish measures for the application of those security principles.

²⁴ Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15.11.1996, p. 2).

²⁵ Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/443 of 13 March 2015 on Security in the Commission (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 41).

²⁶ Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444 of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

Article 61

Liability

1. The Agency's contractual liability shall be governed by the law applicable to the contract in question.
2. The Court of Justice of the European Union shall have jurisdiction to give judgment pursuant to any arbitration clause contained in a contract concluded by the Agency.
3. In the case of non-contractual liability, the Agency shall, in accordance with the general principles common to the laws of the Member States, make good any damage caused by its departments or by its staff in the performance of their duties.
4. The Court of Justice of the European Union shall have jurisdiction in disputes over compensation for damages referred to in paragraph 3.
5. The personal liability of its staff towards the Agency shall be governed by the provisions laid down in the Staff Regulations or Conditions of Employment applicable to them.

Article 62

Administrative monitoring

The activities of the Agency shall be subject to the inquiries of the European Ombudsman in accordance with Article 228 of the Treaty.

Headquarters agreement and operating conditions

1. The necessary arrangements concerning the accommodation to be provided for the Agency in the host Member State and the facilities to be made available by that Member State together with the specific rules applicable in the host Member State to the Executive Director, members of the Management Board, Agency staff and members of their families shall be laid down in a Headquarters Agreement between the Agency and the host Member State, concluded after obtaining the approval of the Management Board.
2. The Agency's host Member State shall provide the necessary conditions to ensure the proper functioning of the Agency, including multilingual, European-oriented schooling and appropriate transport connections.

CHAPTER 12

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 64 deleted

Article 65

Reporting

1. The Agency shall draw up an annual report on the situation of asylum in the Union, taking due account of information already available from other relevant sources. As part of that report, the Agency shall evaluate the results of activities carried out under this Regulation and make a comprehensive comparative analysis of them with the aim of improving the quality, consistency and effectiveness of the CEAS.
2. The Agency shall transmit the annual report to the Management Board, the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission. The Executive Director shall present the annual report to the European Parliament.

Evaluation and review

1. No later than three years from the day of entry into force of this Regulation, and every five years thereafter, the Commission shall commission an evaluation to assess, in particular, the Agency's performance in relation to its objectives, mandate and tasks. That evaluation shall cover the Agency's impact on practical cooperation on asylum-related matters and on facilitating the implementation of the CEAS. The evaluation shall take due regard of progress made, within its mandate, including assessing whether additional measures are necessary to ensure effective solidarity and sharing of responsibilities with Member States subject to particular pressure.

The evaluation shall, in particular, address the possible need to modify the mandate of the Agency, and the financial implications of any such modification. It shall also examine whether the management structure is appropriate for carrying out the Agency's duties. The evaluation shall take into account the views of stakeholders, at both Union and national level.

2. The Commission shall send the evaluation report together with its conclusions on the report to the European Parliament, the Council and the Management Board.
3. On the occasion of every second evaluation, the Commission shall consider whether continuation of the Agency is justified with regard to its objectives, mandate and tasks and it may propose that this Regulation be amended accordingly or repealed.

Article 67

Repeal

1. Regulation (EU) No 439/2010 is repealed with effect from entry into force of this Regulation.
2. References to the repealed Regulation shall be construed as references to this Regulation in accordance with the correlation table set out in the Annex.

Article 68

Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in the Member States in accordance with the Treaties.

Done at Brussels,

For the European Parliament
The President

For the Council
The President

ANNEX II

TABLE OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO BE PROVIDED BY EACH MEMBER STATE TO THE ASYLUM RESERVE POOL OF 500 EXPERTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 19A(6)

Austria	12
Belgium	15
Bulgaria	6
Croatia	4
Cyprus	3
Czech Republic	8
Estonia	5
Finland	6
France	75
Germany	80
Greece	25
Hungary	5
Italy	40
Lithuania	5
Latvia	5
Luxembourg	5*
Malta	4
Netherlands	17
Poland	40
Portugal	6
Romania	18
Slovakia	10
Slovenia	5
Spain	45
Sweden	18
Total	462

* Number to be confirmed at Coreper.