

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Brussels, 11 July 2008

Report from the LIBE Committee Delegation on the Visit to Cyprus

Rapporteur: Jeanine HENNIS-PLASSCHAERT

1. Purpose and timing

A delegation of 7 Members of the European Parliament visited Cyprus on May 25-27, 2008. Head of Delegation was Mrs Martine ROURE. See list attached.

The purpose of the visit was to gather information and ascertain directly the situation regarding the reception of asylum seekers and irregular migrants in Cyprus, to verify the conditions of the centres, to make an evaluation as to how the relevant European directives and regulations¹ are being implemented as well as to exchange views with representatives of civil society and government authorities. The visit to Cyprus followed similar trips to Italy (Lampedusa), Spain (Ceuta and Melilla as well as the Canary Islands), France (Paris), Malta, Greece, Belgium, United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Poland and Denmark.

The visit of the delegation focused on 3 different closed centres (the Famagusta detention centre, the Aradippou Police Station, the Detention centre Block 10 Central Prison) and one open reception centre (the Kofinou Reception Centre).

¹Council Directive 2003/9/EC of 27 January 2003 laying down minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers (**Reception Directive** - Official Journal L 031, 06/02/2003 P. 0018 – 0025)

Council Directive 2005/85/EC of 1 December 2005 on minimum standards on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status (**Procedure Directive** - Official Journal L 326, 13/12/2005 P. 0013 – 0034)

Council Regulation (EC) No 343/2003 of 18 February 2003 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national (**Dublin II Regulation** - Official Journal L 050, 25/02/2003 P. 0001 - 0010)

Amongst others, the delegation met with:

- The Minister of Interior, Mr Neoklis SYLIKIOTIS
- The Minister for Labour and Social Insurance, Mrs. Sotiroulla CHARALAMBOUS
- Director, Civil Registry and Migration Department, Ministry of Interior, Ms. Anny SHAKALLI
- Assistant Chief of Police, Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Ms. Marianna FRANTZI
- Super Intended A', Aliens and Immigration Unit, Police, Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Mr. Emilios LAMBROU
- Chief Inspector, Police, Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Ms. Kyriaki LAMBRIANIDOU
- Inspector, Police, Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Mr. A. LEONIDOU
- Administrative Officers, Asylum Service, Ministry of Interior, Mr. Sotos KTORIS, Mr. Andreas CONSTANTINOU, Ms. Natasa ANDREOU, Ms. Kakia DEMETRIOU, and Ms. Agni PAPAGEORGIOU

Finally, the delegation also met with a series of representatives of various organisations, such as:

- UNHCR
- Amnesty International Cyprus
- KISA - Action for Equality, Support, Antiracism
- Apanemi - Gender equality
- Future Worlds Centre

The delegation organised one press conference, concluding the visit. The visit received media coverage in Cyprus.

2. Background information

Due to its unique geo-strategic position and accession to the EU on 1 May 2004, Cyprus has become one of the major EU recipients of asylum seekers and irregular immigrants in a relatively short period of time. The Cypriot asylum system is still young as the Cypriot authorities assumed responsibility for assessing asylum claims in January 2002 only. Prior to that, UNHCR decided which asylum seekers were genuine refugees.

The number of new asylum seekers who submitted applications in the government-controlled part of Cyprus in 2007 was 6,789. On a per capita basis, this would be the equivalent of approximately 600,000 new applications in the United Kingdom or 800,000 in Germany. While such theoretical comparisons have certain limitations, it is obvious that Cyprus was (and still is) facing a number of serious difficulties. Many of the irregular immigrants consider Cyprus to be a stepping stone to other EU Member States first of all.

It is crystal clear that the sheer number of irregular third country nationals crossing the 'Green Line', which divides Turkish occupied areas from the rest of the country, leads to a number of particular problems and should be considered as a serious concern indeed. Less than 1 % of the asylum seekers and irregular immigrants enter Cyprus directly into the government-controlled areas. The vast majority enters Cyprus across the 'Green Line'.

Another issue is that of the so-called Sovereign Base British Authorities (SBAs) in Cyprus. Negotiations between the UK and the Government of Cyprus resulted in the signing, in February 2003, of a Memorandum of Understanding concerning the responsibility of the United Kingdom (through the SBA Administration) for irregular migrants and asylum-seekers that enter the island of Cyprus directly via the Sovereign Base Area (ca 2%).

Two main types of centres exist in Cyprus:

- Several detention centres for (undocumented) irregular migrants awaiting return and removal. Current maximum capacity is 179 people. The completion of a new detention centre with a capacity of 300 people is foreseen for 2011. If detention centres are full, the authorities simply stop arresting people;
- One open reception centre for asylum seekers awaiting a final decision on their applications with a capacity of 120 persons.

Refugee recognition - and protection rates Cyprus:

See Annex II. It is worth noting that the low recognition rates are not challenged by UNHCR.

3. Official procedures upon arrival for asylum seekers

As in all EU Member States the granting of asylum is the exclusive responsibility of the state. Asylum applications should in principle be submitted at entry points without delay. However, if e.g. apprehended in the street one still has the opportunity to submit an asylum application.

The Asylum Service has prepared a leaflet for asylum seekers (on how to apply for a refugee status, how to obtain a residence or work permit, particulars of refugees' rights and obligations, how to qualify for public assistance, information on the interviews leading to determination of a refugee status). Asylum application forms are available in Greek, Turkish, English, French, Arabic, Farsi, Serbo-Croat and Russian. If there are no application forms in the language in which the asylum seeker can read or write, one can ask for an interpreter free of charge. The asylum seeker should inform the officer in case he or she is homeless, so that necessary measures can be taken to provide for accommodation.

After an interview with the applicant, a specially trained officer submits a report and assessment to the Asylum Service and the asylum seeker is given a so-called 'confirmation letter' (proving that he or she applied for asylum). Upon receipt of the 'confirmation letter', the asylum seeker has to apply for an Alien Book and a Temporary Residence permit (both free of charge) as well. Furthermore, the asylum seeker has to undergo medical examinations within 3 days after having received this 'confirmation letter'.

If the asylum application is accepted, the asylum seeker will receive a recognition letter confirming the status he or she is granted (refugee status, subsidiary protection or status of residence on humanitarian grounds). If an application is rejected, one receives a letter explaining the reasons etc. The asylum seeker has the right to appeal within the time limit stated in the rejection letter. The Refugee Reviewing Authority is responsible for examining asylum applications rejected by the Asylum Services.

Until a final decision is made concerning the asylum application, the asylum seeker has the right:

- to legally stay and to move freely in Cyprus;
- to apply for a job in agriculture and live-stock (after six months only);

- to receive public assistance through the Social Welfare Office by showing one's 'confirmation letter'. As a first step, the Welfare Office might give an amount to cover immediate need, until the application for welfare is thoroughly examined;
- to receive free medical care (on the basis of one's annual income);
- to receive education (unaccompanied minors or underage children of asylum seekers).

According to Refugee law (article 7) detention is allowed, by a Court Order and for a maximum of 32 days, in cases where the asylum seeker has destroyed or threw away his/her travel/identity documents or if fake documents were used. If the application has been rejected (both by the Asylum Services and the Refugee Reviewing Authority) and a deportation order has been issued, one can also be detained. After the expiry of the 32 days the asylum seeker is set free.

According to Aliens and Immigration law as well as relevant case law, detention is also possible on the basis of deportation and detention orders (issued by the Director of the Civil Registry and Migration Department). Such an order can be issued when a person was a prohibited irregular immigrant prior to his or her application for asylum and/or in the case the person has been sentenced to imprisonment for a criminal offence (> 1 month), following which the person is considered to be an 'unwanted' immigrant. Detention on the basis of a deportation and detention order is unlimited. Execution of the deportation order is suspended pending the final determination of the asylum application. A deportation and detention order, considered to be an administrative act, may be challenged at the Supreme Court of the Republic by filing a habeas corpus application and/or filing an application under article 146 of the constitution. The Cypriot legal system does not provide for regular judicial reviews as such.

4. Visit to two closed detention centres (25.05.2008)

4.1. *The Famagusta detention centre in Larnaca*

The Famagusta detention centre is one of the smaller detention centres and falls within the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order. The detention facility is on the ground floor of a police station. The maximum holding capacity is 22 people. At the moment of the visit, there were 6 Syrian male detainees, 1 male detainee from Iran and 1 male detainee from Pakistan. The building is outdated but clean and acceptable at the moment of the visit. Due to complaints and public outrage following a riot a few years ago detainees are obliged to remain 'inside' and cannot move around freely within the grounds although bordered by a barbed wire fence. The Cypriot authorities indicated that they are working on a solution in order to change this in the near future. The cell doors stay unlocked day and night. Each cell has a bell which can be used by the detainees if in need of something. Interpreters as well as medical assistance can be provided upon request and/or if deemed necessary by the officer(s) on duty. Forms explaining the rights of detained persons were sufficiently available in 7 different languages. At least one of the detainees claimed not to know why exactly he was arrested and detained. According to him, his asylum application was still pending while his wife and children (not detained) were now facing severe difficulties in finding enough means for daily expenditure because of his detention. In general, it seems that most detainees in this centre are arrested after an encounter with law enforcement, found to be irregular and awaiting transfer to another detention facility in order to be returned.

4.2. *The Aradippou Police Station*

The Aradippou Police Station is not far away from the Famagusta detention centre, on the way from Larnaca to Nicosia. It is a very modern building and started to be operational in

2004. The station is first of all in charge of policing the area. It has furthermore 8 cells, in principle intended to detain regular criminal suspects. If detention facilities for irregular migrants experience a lack of capacity, irregular immigrants can be accommodated, by way of derogation, in the Aradippou Police Station as well. In that case, Cypriot authorities do their utmost not to mix the irregular immigrants with regular criminal suspects. A guarantee, however, could not be given. The maximum holding capacity of the building is 16 people. Men and women are separated. As a principle families and minors are not detained; social welfare services take over. Minors over 16 years of age can only be detained as a consequence of criminal offences.

5. Meeting with NGO's and IO's (26.05.2008)

The NGO's expressed their concerns about an effective access to asylum. According to them, there is an increasing tendency to treat all immigrants at first as 'irregular'. Distribution and availability (as well as translations) of the leaflet explaining the rights of an asylum seeker (as prepared by the Asylum Service) is definitely not as it should be. The apparent enormous backlog of unprocessed applications and appeals was also severely criticised.

Once an application for asylum is filed, the NGO's claimed that the asylum seeker has in practice very limited access to his or her rights, and to the right to public assistance/welfare benefits as well as housing in particular. The only open reception centre on Cyprus, the Kofinou reception centre, has little capacity. In fact, asylum seekers are expected to find their own accommodation as well as the necessary means for daily expenditure. According to the NGO's, the Cypriot Authorities are furthermore systematically refusing to take into account the situation of vulnerable persons. Individual assessments in order to identify the persons in need of special treatment seem to be insufficient or even lacking.

Cyprus has set no limit on the maximum detention period by law. Although authorities claim that a maximum of 6 months is the rule, long-term detention does occur (over 24 months), mostly in cases in which rejected asylum seekers (for various reasons) cannot be deported to the country of origin or transit and/or in cases where asylum seekers served sentences for small criminal offences (the deportation order is suspended due to the pending asylum application but not the detention order as such). Questions on the existence of regular judicial reviews on detention could not be answered. A little debate was triggered on the access to legal aid. It seems that there is no such thing as access to free legal aid in case the (rejected) asylum seeker has no sufficient financial means to pay for it him- or herself.

In general NGO's have access to asylum seekers and detained persons. However, there are several cases where this has been made difficult by the police. Complaints put forward by NGO's, even before the Independent Committee for Investigating Complaints against the Police (set up in 2004), have been branded as 'unfounded'.

6. Meeting with the Commissioner for Administration (Ombudsman), Ms Eliana NICOLAOU (26.05.2008)

The ombudsman, an independent body, has written numerous reports on the situation of asylum seekers. In her reports, the ombudsman addressed in particular the length of the application procedures, the very limited access to medical and social services as well as detention of third country nationals following a deportation and detention order. Although there are still problems to be solved, she did state that progress has been made over the past years.

The ombudsperson considers the governmental decision to limit the asylum seeker's right to employment to the live-stock and agriculture sectors only as unlawful, and calls on the government to revise it.

7. Visit to the open reception centre (26.05.2008)

The Kofinou Reception Centre

The Kofinou Reception Centre is the only open centre in Cyprus. The centre started to be operational in January 2004, and is located 3 kilometres away from the Kofinou village on the way to Limassol from Nicosia. The Kofinou reception centre falls under the responsibility of the Ministry of Interior, and more specifically the Asylum Service. Daily organisation and actual running of the centre is carried out by the Community Welfare Council of Kofinou.

The centre, which is composed of 18 rectangular prefabricated units, has a maximum capacity of 120 people. Four units are used for the administration, another four units as common spaces and two of them as sanitary units. The remaining 8 units are used as personal spaces for asylum seekers. All units are air conditioned. A playground for children was recently improved and is still undergoing some improvements. The centre hosts families and single women in particular. The food is delivered by a local catering service in accordance with dietary wishes/needs of the residents. In general, circumstances are basic but clean and up to standard. Leisure activities are provided for. At the same time it should be stressed that this centre, due to its material infrastructure as well as the fact that it is located in an isolated area, is unsuitable for a lengthy stay.

As it is an open centre, there is freedom of movement for those residents with the relevant identity documentation. Residents are requested to sign in/out in an attendance book, as are any visitors in order to prevent prostitution. There is, however, no public transport available directly from the centre to the major towns of Cyprus (and vice versa). Residents are advised to wait for the bus at an unspecified point on the road, approximately 2 km away from the centre. If there is a special need in order to make a stop just outside the centre (e.g. bad weather conditions), the regular busses covering the 'Limassol-Nicosia route' are called and alerted by the centre's personnel in order to divert from the highway and make such a stop.

The University of Nicosia is running programmes in the Kofinou reception centre. These programmes, funded by the European Refugee Fund, aim to improve the living conditions in the centre, to establish better administrative procedures as well as to provide for better social welfare and psychological services.

8. Visit to the third closed detention centre (26.05.2008)

The Detention Centre Block 10 in Nicosia

This detention centre is situated in the compound of the central prison in the capital of Cyprus. The centre is specifically designated to hold detainees awaiting return and removal. It has a holding capacity of 80 people maximum. It falls within the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order. At the moment of the visit there were about 40 male detainees present, from numerous nationalities. The centre has two floors with sanitary facilities present on each floor. The facilities are very basic but clean at the moment of the visit. A cell is shared by two detainees. The centre has all the traits of a normal prison but the detainees are allowed to leave their cells during the day.

9. Meeting with the Minister for the Interior, Mr Neoklis SYLIKIOTIS, and the Minister for Labour and Social Insurance, Mrs. Sotiroula CHARALAMBOUS (27.05.2008)

Minister Sylikiotis warmly welcomed the delegation and stated that he appreciates the fact that Parliament supervises the situations in the Member States and inspects whether EU directives have been implemented correctly.

The Minister went on by stressing the geographical situation of Cyprus. *'Cyprus is a place of hospitality already for a long period. Many people have come to the island. In 2006 most immigrants came from Lebanon, but also from Palestine, Syria and Iraq. Cyprus has managed these situations and has been a bridge for the transfer of humanitarian aid.'* On top of our geographical position the Turkish occupation causes serious problems, he said. *'The northern part of the island is a big black hole used by many irregular immigrants to find their way to the government controlled part of Cyprus.'* The minister explained once more that the Green Line, which stretches over 180 kilometres, is a *'ceasefire line and not a border'*. Consequently, stricter controls have to go hand in hand with the imperative need to facilitate as much as possible the right of free movement of persons across the line in full compliance with the EU Green Line Regulation.

The minister acknowledged that not all procedures related to asylum and migration function perfectly. He underlined the cooperation with NGO's. *'Their criticism is used for improvements in policy and implementation.'* Currently over 8,000 asylum applications are pending in Cyprus. The minister identified the long duration of processing these applications as one of the main causes for this backlog and admitted that the services responsible should be better staffed and equipped. Although a number of Member States are of great help in order to help Cyprus in overcoming the difficulties it faces, greater solidarity between the EU Member States would be appreciated.

In the first months of 2008 1,292 new asylum applications were submitted and 1,757 decisions were issued. See also Annex II. 6 Asylum seekers were granted the refugee status, and 40 were given a humanitarian status. 795 Applications were rejected and 936 files were closed (as the applicant departed or absconded).

According to the minister, the authorities are in favour of new reception sites which are closer to urban areas so that asylum seekers will not be isolated. Cyprus is in the process of incorporating Directive 2005/85 into national law this year. The ministry has created an independent service which will analyse all EU solidarity funds in order to benefit from these funds in the most effective way.

Very recently, so the minister said, the government decided that detention should, as a rule, not exceed 6 months. Furthermore, new detention facilities with better living conditions are foreseen. On access to free legal advice and assistance, the minister admitted that the legal assistance provided for by NGO's is not sufficient.

Minister Charalambous said that there is a permanent dialogue with UNHCR and that she is trying to improve the dialogue with other NGO's. The minister indicated furthermore that it is her intention to extend the sectors in which asylum seekers have a right to work. It is now limited to live-stock and agriculture only because of labour market considerations. The collective agreement (covering all workers, so not only asylum seekers) between the trade unions and the agricultural associations is criticised as unsatisfactory. A new agreement is

being negotiated. There is currently no national minimum wage in Cyprus but minimum wages are set for several occupations. According to the minister more occupations will be covered if deemed necessary.

11. Conclusions and requests for (additional) information

- **The current reception capacity for asylum seekers is limited.** The Kofinou centre is the only reception centre for asylum seekers not having an address in Cyprus. The centre has a capacity for maximum 120 people and provides for accommodation for families and women in particular. The Cypriot Authorities are kindly requested to confirm whether they indeed intend to:
 - expand the capacity of the Kofinou centre with at least 9 additional housing units. And if so, indicate when exactly;
 - improve the possibilities for public transportation;
 - address the lack of emergency accommodation for single men. And if not, why not;
 - construct another reception facility with adequate standards (even for long periods) in a less isolated location. And if so, indicate when exactly.
- **All NGO's claimed that individual assessments in order to identify the persons in need of special treatment seem to be insufficient or even lacking.** The Cypriot Authorities explained meanwhile that persons in need of special treatment are primarily identified by the Social Welfare Services where most asylum seekers apply soon after they submit their asylum application. Such special needs *can* also be identified during the interview. More specifically, in cases of unaccompanied, minor asylum seekers the Immigration police informs the Asylum Service upon submission of the application. The Asylum Service informs immediately the Social Welfare Services in order to take the minor under their custody. Victims of torture are immediately sent to the Unit for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Torture upon identification and/or claim either during the interview or at an earlier stage by a social worker. Moreover, so it has been explained by the Cypriot Authorities, the Asylum Service is running a project, co-funded by the ERF, for the provision of social aid and psychological support to asylum seekers. This project is being implemented by NGO's. In addition to the above-mentioned, the Cypriot Authorities are kindly requested to confirm whether specific guidelines for individual assessments (and to identify the persons in need of special treatment in particular) currently exist. And if so, are these guidelines publicly available?
- **Distribution and availability (as well as translations) of the leaflet explaining the rights of an asylum seeker (as prepared by the Asylum Service) seem to be insufficient.** The Cypriot Authorities are kindly requested to inform us whether they intend to improve the distribution and availability of the leaflets. And if so, indicate how and when?
- **Access to public assistance/welfare benefits seems rather difficult.** The Cypriot Authorities are kindly requested to submit updated statistics, including an explanation, on how many asylum seekers do in fact use their right to public assistance. Following the analyses of the 2007 statistics (by the NGO's) over 95% of the asylum seekers are neither employed in the fields permitted by the current labour policy nor receiving a public allowance.

- **The sectors in which asylum seekers have the right to work are now limited to live-stock and agriculture because of labour market considerations.** The Minister for Labour and Social Insurance underlined that the possibility of extension to other sectors is being considered favourably. The Cypriot Authorities are kindly requested to indicate if and when they expect to be able to lift (some of) the restrictions.
- **Long duration of processing asylum applications and backlog.** Following the latest information, the Asylum Service has recently been reinforced with 4 additional staff members for the examination of asylum applications. Furthermore, in June, Asylum Service staff (5 caseworkers and 1 secretary) has been transferred to the Nicosia Immigration Office in order to examine asylum applications on the spot. In general, Asylum Service staff is working overtime in order to examine all asylum applications as soon as possible. The Cypriot Authorities are kindly requested to set out their *structured* plans for the (near) future in order to assess the asylum applications in a timely manner as well as to get rid of the current backlog (and to avoid a new backlog).
- **Detention following a Court order or a Deportation and Detention order.** The Cypriot Authorities are kindly requested:
 - to provide statistics reflecting the percentage of people detained following a Court order and the percentage of people detained following a Deportation and Detention order;
 - to explain the status of the person once set free (for example maximum detention period following a Court order has expired but the issue as such has not been solved);
 - to indicate whether detention is used as a matter of last resort and whether other sufficient but less coercive measures are provided for;
 - to make clear whether a period for voluntary return is foreseen once a deportation order is issued;
 - to confirm the introduction of a maximum detention period of 6 months for people detained on the basis of a Deportation and Detention order;
 - to indicate whether it is foreseen to start up regular reviews of detention orders by a judicial authority.
- **Limited access to legal aid.** The fact that there is no access to free legal aid for *non* criminal cases is a serious concern as persons detained, and without sufficient financial means to pay for legal aid themselves, remain defenceless. The Cypriot Authorities indicated that access to free legal aid for non criminal cases is now being considered within the framework of the transposition of the Directive on Asylum Procedures 2005/85/EC. The Cypriot Authorities are kindly requested to report on the outcome and possible solutions.

12. Statement to the Council and the European Commission

While Cyprus has joined the EU as a whole, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus exercises effective control up to the Green Line while the application of the *acquis communautaire* north of the Green Line has been suspended in accordance with Protocol No 10 to the Act of Accession 2003. The Green Line has evolved into a very serious problem regarding illegal immigration.

This problem should be addressed by Council and Commission in the ongoing negotiations with regard to Turkey's accession to the EU. Turkey should take up its responsibility as the impact on the government-controlled parts of Cyprus will soon lead to a situation that is unmanageable, from a demographic, political as well as financial point of view.

In addition to the above-mentioned, and more in general, it should be noted that over the past 18 months no developments have been made on the bilateral working agreement between Turkey and Frontex. This is simply unacceptable. It is high time for Turkey and the EU to reach a common understanding on the importance of urgent and close cooperation in this field.

ANNEX I

<p style="text-align: center;">European Parliament Committee on civil liberties, justice and home affairs Delegation to Cyprus 25 - 27 May 2008</p>

PROGRAMME

Sunday 25 May 2008

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 14:55 | Arrival in Larnaca, Cyprus |
| 16:30 – 17:30 | visit of the Famagusta detention centre in Larnaca |
| 17:30 - 18:00 | visit of the Aradippou Police Station |
| 18:00 – 19:00 | transfer by bus from Larnaca to Nicosia to the hotel |

Monday 26 May 2008

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 68:30 – 9:00 | transfer from the hotel to the European Parliament Office in Nicosia |
| 9:00 – 10:00 | meeting with UNHCR and NGOs (European Parliament Office) |
| 10:00 – 11:00 | meeting with Ms Eliana NICOLAOU, Commissioner for the Administration (Ombudsperson) (European Parliament Office) |
| 11:00 – 11:45 | travel to Kofinou |
| 11:45 – 13:15 | visit of the Kofinou Reception Centre |

Present were with us: on behalf of the Asylum Service of the Ministry of Interior, Mr. Sotos Ktoris, Ms. Natasa Andreou and Ms. Kakia Demetriou. And Ms Papageorgiou on behalf of the Ministry of Interior.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 13:15 – 13:40 | transfer to the restaurant Kalymnos |
| 13:40 – 15:30 | lunch |
| 15:30 – 16:30 | transfer to the Detention centre Block 10, Central Prison, Nicosia |
| 16:30 – 18:00 | visit of the Detention centre Block 10, Central Prison, Nicosia |
| 18:00 – 18:15 | transfer to the hotel |

Tuesday 27 May 2008

8:30 – 9:00 transfer to the Ministry of Interior

9:00 – 10:30 **meeting with Mr Neoklis SYLIKIOTIS, Minister for the Interior, and the Minister for Labour and Social Insurance, Mrs. Sotiroula CHARALAMBOUS and with representatives of the Ministry of Justice and Public Order**

Present as well: Ms. Anny Shakalli, Director, Civil Registry and Migration Department, Ministry of Interior, Ms. Marianna Frantzi, Assistant Chief of Police, Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Mr. Emiliou Lambrou, Super Intended A', Aliens and Immigration Unit, Police, Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Ms. Kyriaki Lambrianidou, Chief Inspector, Police, Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Mr. A. Leonidou, Inspector, Police, Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Mr. Sotos Ktoris, Administrative Officer, Asylum Service, Ministry of Interior, Ms. Natasa Andreou and / or Ms. Kasia Demetriou, Administrative Officers, Asylum Service, Ministry of Interior, Mr. Andreas Constantinou, Administrative Officer, Ministry of Interior, Ms. Agni Papageorgiou, Administrative Officer, Ministry of Interior.

10:30 – 10:45 transfer to the European Parliament Office

10:45 – 11:30 **press conference at the European Parliament office**

11:30 - 11:45 transfer to the hotel

11:45 – 14:00 lunch

14:00 – 15:00 transfer to Larnaca International Airport

16:00-21:30 flight back to Brussels

European Parliament
Committee on civil liberties, justice and home affairs
Delegation to Cyprus
25 - 27 May 2008

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEPs

Martine ROURE (PES) (Head of delegation)
Jeanine HENNIS-PLASSCHAERT (ALDE) (Rapporteur)

Jean LAMBERT (Greens/EFA)

Adamos ADAMOU (GUE/NGL) (*hors quota*)
Panayiotis DEMETRIOU (EPP-ED) (*hors quota*)
Ioannis KASOULIDES (EPP-ED) (*hors quota*)
Marios MATSAKIS (ALDE) (*hors quota*)

MEPs assistants

Pauline CHAIGNE (assistant to Martine ROURE)
Nanda KELLY (assistant to Jeanine HENNIS-PLASSCHAERT)
Emilie MIRDJANIAN (assistant to Roselyne LEFRANCOIS)

LIBE political advisors

Stavroula KALOPSIDIOU (GUE/NGL)
Annie LEMARCHAL (PES)
Anders RASMUSSEN (ALDE)
Christine SIDENIUS (Greens/EFA)
Chiara TAMBURINI (GUE/NGL)

LIBE Committee Secretariat

Ana DUMITRACHE
Cristina RODRIGUES

EP Office in Nicosia

Tasos GEORGIU (Head of the EP Office)

Interpreters

EL, EN, FR, DE, IT - 6 persons

ANNEX II

	2008*		2007		2006		2005		2004		2003		2002		Total	
	<u>applications</u>	<u>persons</u>	<u>appl.</u>	<u>pers.</u>												
Applications submitted	1862	2013	5905	6789	4286	4545	7291	7746	9285	9872	4032	4407	839	952	33500	40610
Decisions	2840	2995	6749	7184	5295	5601	5499	5804	4998	5345	404	411	126	143	23071	27483
a) Asylum Seekers granted refugee status	8	18	15	36	19	37	16	41	15	30	0	0	0	0	73	162
b) Humanitarian Status (including subsidiary protection status)	41	90	115	191	85	151	50	122	26	56	10	10	0	0	327	620
c) Rejections	1309	1374	2123	2316	1674	1779	2988	3133	2504	2734	267	274	126	143	10991	11753
d) Closed Files	1482	1513	4496	4641	3517	3634	2445	2508	2453	2525	127	127	0	0	14520	14948
Cases Pending	7589	8841	8567	9823	9411	10218	10420	11274	8628	9332	4341	4805	713	809		
<i>*Up to 30/06/2008</i>																