AJIRE - LEGAL CLINIC 2024-2025

REGULATION 2024/1348 THE "COMMON PROCEDURE REGULATION"

"When all these changes are taken as a whole, the asylum procedure is losing its raison d'être: it is becoming a tool of exclusion rather than a means for identifying those who are in need of protection from persecution and armed conflict"

PROF. <u>Vincent Chetail</u> & <u>Mariana Ferolla Vallandro do Valle, Geneva Graduate</u> <u>Institute of International and Development Studies</u> **Regulation 2024/1348** Harmonise EU asylum procedures, preventing system loopholes and ensuring uniform application across Member States.

PUBLIC CONCERNED:

- Member States
- Beneficiaries of international protection
- Asylum seekers

MAIN ISSUES

- ✓ Standardisation: Unified asylum assessments across the EU.
- ✓ Efficiency: Faster decisions & streamlined processes.
- ✓ Reducing Secondary Movements: Preventing asylum seekers from moving between Member States.
- ✓ Fair Treatment: Equal legal assistance for asylum seekers.

CHALLENGES & CRITICISM:

- Unequal burden on border states (e.g., Italy & Greece).
- Scholars highlight a "solidarity deficit" (Tsourdi, 2021), with policies leaning towards migration control rather than protection.



LEGAL ENVIRONMENT

PRIMARY LAW:

- Treaty on the functioning of the EU (TFEU articles 78 and 80)
 Treaty on the EU (TEU article 5)
- Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (articles 24-47)



OTHER RELATED LEGAL INSTRUMENTS:

- Replaces Directive 2013/32
- Connected to regulations 2024/1351 and 2024/1356
 Applies Directive 2008/115



TERMINOLOGICAL APPROACH

APPLICATION FOR INTERNAL PROTECTION

Refers to an application for asylum as defined in art. 2(h) of European Union (EU) Directive 2011/95/EU, i.e. including requests for refugee status or for subsidiary protection status, irrepsective of whether the application was lodged on arrival at the border, of from inside the country, and irrespective of wheter the person entered the territory legally (e.g. as a tourist) or illegally. (European Commission – Migration and home affairs")

DETERMINING AUTHORITY

in the context of international protection, any quasi-judicial or administrative body in an EU Member State responsable for examining applications for international protection that is competent to take decision at first instance in such cases. (European Commission – Migration and home affairs")

LEGAL FICTION OF "NON-ENTRY"

claim that states use in border management to deny the legal arrival of third-country nationals on their territory, regardless of their physical presence, until granted entry by a border of immigration officer. Although physically present, they are not considered to have legally entered the country's official territory until they have undergone the necessary clearance. (Anita Orav & Nefeli Barlaoura, "Legal fiction of nonentry in EU asylum policy")

SAFE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Under specific circumstances, certain countries can be designated as generally safe for their nationals or former residents. As a result, asylum applications from such countries are likely to be unfounded, and Member States may accelerate or prioritise their examination. The concept is described in the recast APD, Article 36. (European Union Agency for asylum, "safe country concepts")

SAFE THIRD COUNTRY

is a safe country with which the applicant has a genuine connection and where he/she should have applied for international protection. Unlike the safe country of origin concept, this concept is not related to the substance of the application and the application may be declared inadmissible. (European Union Agency for asylum, "safe country concepts")



THE PARADOXICAL PRESERVATION OF FUNDAMENTAL GUARANTEES RIGHTS & OBLIGATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION APPLICANTS

Right to Remain (Article 10)

- Stay permitted until final decision but no automatic residence or freedom of movement.
- Security exceptions may breach nonrefoulement principles.

Imbalance in Cooperation

 Applicants face strict obligations; states provide inadequate legal aid and inefficient processing.

Right to Information (Article 8)

• Obligation to inform applicants in an understandable way.

Issues: Poor translations, lack of intercultural understanding, limited comprehension support.



THE PARADOXICAL PRESERVATION OF FUNDAMENTAL GUARANTEES

THE DIFFERENT ACTORS IN THE DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Centralized Decision-Making (Article 4)

Benefits: Expertise & harmonized practices.

Challenges:

- Fragmentation in early stages causes delays.
- Balancing efficiency with accessibility.

Confidentiality (Article 7)

 Purpose: Protect personal data to prevent retaliation.

Challenges:

- Slows cross-border case management.
- Requires balance between data protection & administrative efficiency.



Role of International Bodies:

- **EUAA** (Article 5): Supports overwhelmed authorities with resources & experts.
- UNHCR (Article 6): Monitors rights & reception conditions.

Challenges:

- National sovereignty restricts international involvement.
- UNHCR's input is non-binding.

THE PARADOXICAL PRESERVATION OF FUNDAMENTAL GUARANTEES SPECIFIC PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS UNDERMINED BY ITS PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION

Defining Vulnerability (Articles 20-25)

Criteria: Minors, trauma victims, violence survivors, etc.

Challenges:

- Vague definitions → inconsistent interpretations.
- Subjective indicators increase bias.
- Stressors persist despite tailored interviews.
- Detention risks for unaccompanied minors over 14.
- Gaps for individuals outside predefined categories.

Theory vs. Practice (Article 21)

Theoretical Safeguards: Professional training & needs assessment within 30 days.

Practical Issues:

- Weak training standards & oversight.
- Delays and resource shortages disrupt support.
- Vulnerable individuals face expedited procedures or poor conditions.

Medical Assessments & Rights (Articles 20, 21, 24–25)

• Identify needs, adapt interviews, ensure dignified age assessments.

Challenges:

- Resource gaps → inadequate solutions (e.g., untrained translators).
- Superficial professional training.
- Cross-cultural misunderstandings.
- Applicants feel pressured to consent;

A SYSTEM OF PROCEDURAL EXPEDIENCY A LEGAL FICTION OF NON-ENTRY

A concerning expediency at the expense of rights (Article 42)

 The accelerated procedure aims to expedite the examination of certain asylum applications





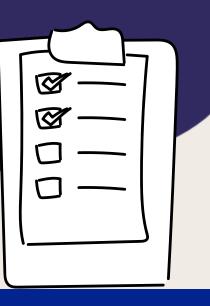
Fundamental rights limited by the legal fiction of "non-entry" (Article 45, 51, 54)

- Border procedure application
- Asylum procedure must be completed as soon as possible, (12-16 weeks)
- Applicants detention during the procedure

A SYSTEM OF PROCEDURAL EXPEDIENCY THE CONCEPT OF SAFE COUNTRY

A subjective concept of safe third country (Article 57, 59, 60, 64)

- Effective protection
- Safe third country of origin
- EU-wide list countries of origin
- National list



An inconsistent implementation of the concept of safe countries of origin (Article 42, 61, 62, 64)

- Nationals from countries classified as safe may be excluded from refugee status
- Concept of safe country of origin
- EU-wide list countries of origin
- National list

EFFICIENCY OVER FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

Regulation 2024/1348 prioritizes speed, **risking asylum seekers' fundamental rights.**



Accelerated Cases – Mandatory border procedures for misleading statements, security concerns, and low recognition rates (<20%).

Tight Deadlines – 5-day application submission, decisions within 12-16 weeks, limiting applicants' preparation time.

EFFICIENCY OVER FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

Nationality-Based **Discrimination** – **Article 42** assumes certain nationalities are safe, undermining individual assessments.



Non-Entry Fiction – Asylum seekers present in EU but are legally denied entry, restricting rights and protections

Detention for Rejected Applicants - Regulation 2024/1349 mandates border detention for those denied asylum.

Return Decisions & Non-Refoulement
– Expedited removals risk **violating non-refoulement** due to inadequate individual assessments.

EFFICIENCY OVER FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

Weakened Suspensive Effect – Courts can decide asylum seekers' stay; Stricter regulations for subsequent applications make it highly challenging for asylum seekers to present new evidence or changed circumstances, potentially violating the principle of non-refoulement.

Unworkable Appeal Deadlines – 2 weeks to 1 month for appeals; shorter for fast-track cases, **challenging fair legal recourse.**

NEXT STEPS



Its balance may be positive (compared to other instruments of the Pact)

The real scope of the regulation: a strong political message Necessity to observe whether implementation will be effective







The regulation entered into force on May 14, 2024.

Il will be entirely applicable in June 2026

TO GO FURTHER







SOURCES IN ENGLISH

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Giuseppe Campesi, <u>The EU Pact on Migration and Asylum and the dangerous multiplication of anomalous zones' for migration management</u>, Forum on the new EU Pact on Migration and Asylum in light of the UN GCR, Asile Project, 2020

TO GO FURTHER









Gisti, Tout savoir sur le « Nouveau Pacte sur la migration et l'asile » de l'Union européenne, MAJ 6 mai 2025

T. Fleury Graff, L'accès au territoire des États membres dans le nouveau Pacte « asile et migration » RTD eur 2024, n°293, Novembre 2024

