



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS

The Director-General

Brussels

Dear Petitioner,

The European Union is an area of protection for people fleeing persecution or serious harm in their country of origin. Asylum is a fundamental right and an international obligation for countries, as recognised in the 1951 Geneva Convention on the protection of refugees.

In the EU, an area without internal borders and freedom of movement, Member States share the same fundamental values and joint approach to guarantee high standards of protection for refugees.

EU countries have a shared responsibility to welcome asylum seekers in a dignified manner, ensuring that they are treated fairly and their case is examined following uniform standards. Procedures must be fair, effective throughout the EU, and impervious to abuse.

While the EU law sets certain common criteria for processing applications for international protection, the responsibility for examining individual claims lies with national asylum authorities. They are tasked with examining all the elements that are provided by applicants to substantiate their application. This is so for all categories of applicants, including conscientious objectors to military service.

I hope you will find these remarks useful.

Yours faithfully,

Monique PARIAT