



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

While compromise is still needed on some elements of the EU's asylum reform, enormous progress has been made on the overall set, with 5 out of the Commission's initial 7 proposals ready for adoption. Though part of a far-reaching reform, each individual proposal has a clear added value on its own and their swift finalisation would make a difference on the ground.

### 4 Eurodac Regulation

December 2018



#### Strong added value

The new Eurodac Regulation will expand the EU's identification database, helping authorities track secondary movements, tackle irregular migration and improve returns of irregular migrants.



#### Ready to be concluded

Broad agreement found between co-legislators. Adoption possible in early 2019.

#### THE NEW EURODAC REGULATION WILL ENSURE:



#### Better identification of asylum seekers

Member States will be able to store and search facial images in Eurodac in addition to fingerprints, in full compliance with data protection rules. This will help ensure they have all the elements needed at their disposal to identify asylum seekers, and help mitigate some challenges faced by Member States, for example with damaged fingertips and refusal to provide fingerprints.



#### More effective returns

The new system will no longer be limited to asylum applicants but will also store data on non-EU nationals found irregularly staying in the EU. The data retention period for irregular migrants apprehended at the external borders will be extended beyond the current 18 months to 5 years. This will make it easier to identify and re-document these individuals for the purpose of return and readmission.



#### Better protection of child migrants

By registering minors from the age of six, the new system will help improve the safety of child migrants, for example to detect cases of human trafficking and exploitation but also to establish family links should a child go missing.

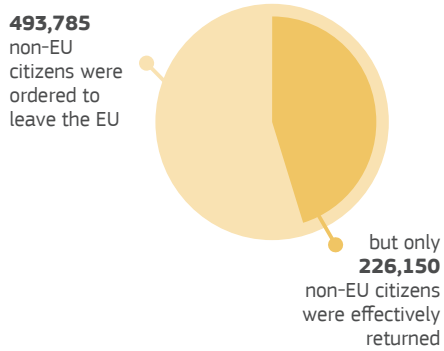


#### Better tracking of secondary movements

With additional information available in the system, national authorities will have a more complete picture of each registered person when tracking irregular secondary movements.

**IMPROVING RETURNS: EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF EURODAC TO IRREGULAR MIGRANTS CAN HELP INCREASE RETURN RATES WHICH TO DATE REMAIN UNSATISFACTORY.**

**45.8% effective returns in 2016**



**36.6% effective returns in 2017**

