

From:



Subject:

Input Amnesty International Belgium-Flanders to the 2024 Rule of Law Report

Date:

Thursday 18 January 2024 18:12:44

Attachments:

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Dear,

My name is [redacted] and I am writing you on behalf of Amnesty International Belgium – Flemish section as their Political Affairs Officer.

Amnesty International regretfully was not able to respond fully to the survey '2024 Rule of Law Report-targeted stakeholder consultation'. Nonetheless, we would like to alert you to a situation in Belgium which we believe to be highly relevant to your work.

Since October 2021, Belgium has consistently failed to meet its human rights obligations under international law to provide housing and other essential goods and services to asylum seekers.

Though the government has increased the capacity of its reception system, the measures it has taken have been slow and insufficient to solve a self-inflicted reception crisis. Thousands of court decisions, including by Belgium's highest administrative court and the European Court of Human Rights, have recognised that Belgian institutions violated their obligations to adequately assist asylum seekers. By not giving any significant follow up to comply with the rulings, the government has shown a shocking contempt for not just the rights of asylum seekers but also the rule of law.

Further information on the issue can be found in Amnesty International's October 2023's [public statement](#) and the organisation's (ongoing) [urgent action](#) from December 2023.

At present, over 3000 people who are seeking international protection in Belgium are being denied their right to be provided with accommodation. As president of the Council of the EU, Belgium prioritizes attention for the rule of law but its treatment of asylum seekers speaks to a different reality. We urge you to consider the reception crisis and its implications for the rule of law in your work and would look forward to engaging further with you on the issue.

Sincere regards,

[redacted]
Politieke Zaken – Political Affairs

| T [redacted]



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