



EU HOME AFFAIRS SUB-COMMITTEE BREXIT: FUTURE UK-EU ASYLUM COOPERATION CALL FOR EVIDENCE

The House of Lords EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee, chaired by Lord Jay of Ewelme, has launched an inquiry into the UK's future relationship with the EU on asylum cooperation. The inquiry will focus on the impact of Brexit on current UK-EU asylum cooperation, as well as possible models for future cooperation and the impact this could have on asylum seekers interacting with any future system.

This is a public call for written evidence to be submitted to the Committee. **The deadline is Friday 24 May.** The Committee values diversity and seeks to ensure this wherever possible. Guidance on how to submit evidence is set out later in this document, but if you have any questions or require adjustments to enable you to respond, please contact the staff of the Committee. We look forward to hearing from a range of interested individuals and organisations.

Inquiry focus

The opportunity that leaving the EU offers the UK to control immigration and secure its borders was referenced throughout the 2016 referendum debate and has been a central element of the Government's Brexit policy. It has been suggested, however, that without an agreement to replace current UK-EU asylum cooperation the UK may in fact find it more difficult to manage asylum flows.

The Government's Immigration White Paper indicates that it intends to negotiate a new legal framework to return "illegal migrants, including asylum seekers, to EU countries they have travelled through or have a connection with, to have their protection claim considered". To date there has been limited discussion between the UK and EU on the form this framework might take. The EU has not published any position on the future framework of asylum cooperation.

UK-EU asylum cooperation is complex, with the UK opting into some aspects of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) and not others. The Committee has examined briefly two parts of CEAS: the Dublin Regulation and EURODAC.

This inquiry intends to look at the UK's relationship with CEAS in more depth, and to examine what type of agreement the UK should seek with the EU on future asylum cooperation, including:

- the Dublin III Regulation and proposed Dublin IV
- Standards of protection and assistance in the UK and EU
- the Immigration Liaison Officer network
- Readmission agreements with third countries
- the EU Asylum and Migration Fund



HOUSE OF LORDS

The Committee is seeking evidence on the following questions. **Submissions need not address all questions.**

- What form should future UK-EU asylum cooperation take? What will be the key factors which determine the nature and extent of this relationship?
- How relevant are existing models of cooperation on asylum between the EU and third countries, such as Norway, to the UK situation? How important is participation in Schengen and the Single Market in facilitating this cooperation?
- Do you think that minimum standards of protection, assistance, and future alignment in qualification for international protection should or will be important factors in negotiating a new legal framework for future UK-EU asylum cooperation?
- What is your assessment of the success of CEAS, in particular the Dublin system? Has it achieved its aims?
- How has EU asylum law influenced the UK? Has the UK “levelled up” to EU standards, or vice versa?
- What is the likelihood that the UK will continue to be able to access EURODAC after Brexit, both for asylum and law enforcement purposes? What would be the implications for the UK if it could not access EURODAC for either of these purposes?
- What is your opinion on the Government’s policy on family unification for asylum seekers?
- What systems and service should be in place to meet the needs of children seeking asylum, especially unaccompanied asylum-seeking children?
- What is your view on the extent to which rights of asylum seekers in the UK will be upheld and protected after Brexit?
- What might the UK’s participation in the EU’s Immigration Liaison Officer network look like after Brexit and what impact that could that have on asylum cooperation?
- After Brexit, the UK will need to negotiate new bilateral agreements with some third countries to facilitate the return of irregularly staying migrants to their country of origin. Do you have any concerns about the UK negotiating these agreements?
- How might the UK continue to participate in the EU’s Asylum and Migration Fund as a third country after Brexit?
- What is your assessment of the role the UK has played in providing global leadership and support in tackling key migration challenges?
- How does the UK cooperate with other countries on asylum matters through bilateral and (non-EU) international channels? Should the UK seek to enhance this cooperation after Brexit?
- How important will the UK-France relationship be in managing migration flows? What impact might Brexit have on this?
- Are there any other comments you wish to add?



ANNEX: GUIDANCE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Written evidence should be submitted online using the written submission form available at <http://www.parliament.uk/hlinquiry-brexite-asylum-international-protection-submission-form>.

This page also provides guidance on submitting evidence.

If you have difficulty submitting evidence online, please contact the Committee staff by email staffordg@parliament.uk or by telephoning 020 7219 4911. The deadline for written evidence is **Friday 24 May**.

Short submissions are preferred. A submission longer than six pages should include a one-page summary.

Paragraphs should be numbered. All submissions made through the written submission form will be acknowledged automatically by email.

Evidence that is accepted by the Committee may be published online at any stage; when it is so published it becomes subject to parliamentary copyright and is protected by parliamentary privilege. Submissions that have been previously published will not be accepted as evidence. Once you have received acknowledgement that the evidence has been accepted you will receive a further email, and at this point you may publicise or publish your evidence yourself. In doing so you must indicate that it was prepared for the Committee, and you should be aware that your publication or re-publication of your evidence may not be protected by parliamentary privilege.

Personal contact details will be removed from evidence before publication, but will be retained by the Committee Office and used for specific purposes relating to the Committee's work, for instance to seek additional information.

Persons who submit written evidence, and others, may be invited to give oral evidence. Oral evidence is usually given in public at Westminster and broadcast online; transcripts are also taken and published online. Persons invited to give oral evidence will be notified separately of the procedure to be followed and the topics likely to be discussed.

Substantive communications to the Committee about the inquiry should be addressed through the Clerk of the Committee, whether or not they are intended to constitute formal evidence to the Committee.

This is a public call for evidence. Please bring it to the attention of other groups and individuals who may not have received a copy direct.

You may follow the progress of the inquiry at <http://www.parliament.uk/hlinquiry-brexite-asylum-international-protection>.