Working Arrangement

between

The European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)

and

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

WORKING ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR ASYLUM (EUAA) AND THE EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS (FRA)

The European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), of the one side and

the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), of the other side,

collectively referred to as the 'Sides', or individually as a 'Side',

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/2303 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2021 on the European Union Agency for Asylum and repealing Regulation (EU) No 439/2010[1] ('EUAA Regulation'), and in particular Article 37 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 168/2007 establishing the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights[2] ('FRA Regulation'), and in particular Article 7 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The European Union recognises the rights, freedoms and principles set out in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, which includes in Article 18 the right to asylum.

(2) The European Union constitutes an area of freedom, security and justice with respect for fundamental rights.

(3) The European Union is to develop a Common European Asylum System ('CEAS') which shall offer appropriate status to any third-country national requiring international protection and ensure compliance with the principle of non-refoulement.

(4) The EUAA contributes to ensuring the efficient and uniform application of Union law on asylum in the Member States in a manner that fully respects fundamental rights. The Agency facilitates and supports the activities of the Member States in the implementation of the CEAS, and it improves its functioning, including by providing operational and technical assistance to Member States, where needed. The EUAA is a centre of expertise by virtue of its independence, the scientific and technical quality of the assistance it provides and the information it collects and disseminates, the transparency of its operating procedures and methods, its diligence in performing the tasks assigned to it, and the information technology support needed to fulfil its mandate.
(5) FRA provides assistance and expertise on fundamental rights to EU institutions, bodies, offices, agencies, and Member States to help them ensure full respect for fundamental rights

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1 Regulation (EU) 2021/2303 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2021 on the European Union Agency for Asylum (OJ L 468, 30.12. 2021, pp. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2303/oj).

2 Council Regulation (EC) No. 168/2007 of 15 February 2007 establishing a European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (OJ L 53, 22.2.2007, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2007/168/oj).

when implementing Union law. FRA does this through expert advice and collection of data, awareness raising and capacity building activities, and support to national human rights bodies.

(6) On 11 June 2013, the European Asylum Support Office ('EASO') and FRA concluded a working arrangement to establish a cooperation framework covering the relevant areas of common work and interest, setting the objectives and principles of such cooperation. Since then, the EASO has been replaced by the EUAA and the mandates of both Agencies have been amended, and their activities and cooperation have evolved. Therefore, a new Working Arrangement should be concluded.

(7) The cooperation between the Sides should take place in a manner which ensures the protection of intellectual property rights and taking into account the applicable EU copyright legislation.

(8) The Sides are subject to Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC1[3] .

(9) By Decision C(2026) 6596, in accordance with Article 37(2) of the EUAA Regulation, the European Commission gave its prior approval to this Working Arrangement[4].

(10) In accordance with Article 41(1), point (ac) of the EUAA Regulation, the Management Board of the EUAA has authorised and approved the conclusion of this Working Arrangement[5].

(11) Pursuant to Article 37(2) of the EUAA Regulation, the European Parliament and the Council are to be informed of this Working Arrangement,

Have agreed on the following Working Arrangement:

CHAPTER: I PURPOSE AND PRINCIPLES

Article 1
Purpose of the Working Arrangement

1. The purpose of this Working Arrangement is to establish a framework for cooperation between the Sides covering the relevant areas of work and interest and to set objectives and principles of such cooperation.

[3] *OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39, EU: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1725/oj.*

[4] *COM Decision C(2026)6596.*

[5] *EUAA/MB/2026/218.*

2. In the implementation of this Working Arrangement, the Sides seek to promote fundamental rights as well as to support the implementation of EU legislation on fundamental rights and international protection, in line with their respective mandates.

Article 2
Cooperation principles

The cooperation between the Sides is guided by the following principles:

- commitment to respect and promote fundamental rights in a transparent manner;
- respect for the EU legal and institutional framework;
- mutual trust and mutual assistance;
- acknowledging each other's mandate, structure, institutional capacity and policies,
- flexibility to adapt cooperation activities and modalities to evolving needs and circumstances;
- effectiveness and efficiency, optimising resources to achieve timely, results-driven outcomes;
- complementarity and synergies, using each party's strengths to create added value and enhance impact.

CHAPTER II: PERMANENT SUPPORT

Article 3
Training

1. In accordance with Article 8 of the EUAA Regulation, the Sides may cooperate on training and capacity building activities. Cooperation may include consultations on the development of training materials and joint development thereof, mutual participation in training activities, joint delivery of training activities, and exchange of best practices, training material, training plans and strategies.

2. The Sides may share expertise for these activities, including the provision of experts and/or exchange information on expertise available in the field, including about trainers, lecturers, researchers and other experts, without prejudice to Article 21 of this Working Arrangement.

3. The Sides may also cooperate in the field of didactics, e-learning methodologies, digital learning technologies, editing and training management.

Article 4
Quality support, guides and tools

The Sides may exchange best practices and expertise on quality initiatives and projects as well as on guides and tools for the application of high standards across the EU in the field of fundamental rights and international protection. The Sides may develop joint products, contribute to or review the other Side's products in accordance with the provisions of Article 20 of this Working Arrangement.

Article 5
Persons in vulnerable situations

The Sides may share best practices, information and expertise, and organise joint activities relating to the protection of persons in vulnerable situations, such as children, unaccompanied children, victims of trafficking in human beings, pregnant women, single parents with minor children, LGBTIQ+ people, persons with disabilities and persons with mental health problems, older people, as well as persons who have been subjected to serious forms of violence.

CHAPTER III: OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

Article 6
Operations

The Sides may inform each other on operational activities that are relevant to their respective mandates and explore opportunities for cooperation and joint activities on a case-by-case basis in the areas of mutual interest.

CHAPTER IV: INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS SUPPORT

Article 7
Research

The Sides may share information on research activities relating to issues of common interest and make full use of cooperation opportunities in this regard.

Article 8
Data and information gathering and analysis

1. The Sides may share their experiences as well as best practices on methodologies and tools for data and information gathering and analysis.

2. The Sides may consult each other in the preparation of their annual reports and other products on the situation of fundamental rights and international protection.

3. The Sides may exchange relevant information and data, including materials relating to legislation, case-law, and the implementation of the Common European Asylum System.

4. The Sides may also explore possibilities of preparing joint analytical reports.

CHAPTER V: FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS-RELATED ASPECTS

Article 9
Cooperation on fundamental rights-related activities

The Sides may cooperate on matters related to safeguarding and promoting the respect of fundamental rights in accordance with their respective mandates.

The Sides may consult each other on fundamental rights-related activities, including in the context of the implementation of the EUAA Fundamental Rights Strategy and corresponding Action Plans.

Article 10
Cooperation for the exercise of the mandate of the EUAA Fundamental Rights Officer

For the exercise of the mandate of the EUAA Fundamental Rights Officer (FRO), the Sides may cooperate on matters related to promoting the respect of fundamental rights, in full respect of the EUAA Regulation.

Article 11
Cooperation in the context of the EUAA's monitoring function

In the context of Articles 14 and 15 of the EUAA Regulation, the Sides agree to pursue synergies and to facilitate exchange of practices and knowledge sharing, for example on methodologies and indicators, related to monitoring of the operational and technical application of the CEAS in EU Member States and the impact on fundamental rights.

Article 12
Consultative Forum and Fundamental Rights Platform

The Sides agree to exchange best practices on their consultation activities with civil society representatives. The EUAA will invite FRA to participate in the EUAA's Consultative Forum, in accordance with Article 50(3) of the EUAA Regulation. FRA will invite the EUAA to the

meetings of the FRA's Fundamental Rights Platform when discussions relate to the matters falling under the EUAA mandate, as relevant.

CHAPTER VI: HORIZONTAL COOPERATION

Article 13
Work programmes

The Sides agree to share their draft work programmes and consult each other on matters of common interest to be reflected therein.

Article 14
Reciprocal representation

The Sides agree to facilitate representation at meetings, networks and working parties organised by them in matters of common interest, as appropriate.

Article 15
Cooperation with other partners, international organisations, and third countries

The Sides may exchange relevant information on their cooperation and relations with other partners, in particular EU institutions, bodies, offices and other agencies and offices, Member States, international organisations and third countries in connection with activities relevant to each other's mandate. The Sides may explore possibilities for joint cooperation in this context, within the limits of their respective mandates.

Article 16
General affairs and administration

The Sides may exchange relevant information and best practices in the areas of administration, human resources and general affairs.

Article 17
Publicity

1. Any publicly available material developed in connection with this working arrangement should acknowledge the involvement of both Sides. Where appropriate, each Side should acknowledge the other Side's role in publications, speeches, press releases and similar communication products.

2. One Side may use the name and logo of the other Side only in direct connection with this working arrangement and subject to the latter's prior written consent.

CHAPTER VII: FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 18
Contact and focal points

1. The Sides will respectively nominate a contact point within their administration entrusted with all communications relating to the present Working Arrangement.

2. The nomination of the contact points, as well as any subsequent change in those contact points, will be communicated through an exchange of letters between the Executive Director of the EUAA and the Director of FRA.

3. The contact point will facilitate the technical and organisational aspects relating to the setting up of meetings referred to in Article 22 of this Working Arrangement as deemed necessary.

4. The Sides may also decide to nominate focal points for specific areas of cooperation if needed. Such focal points together with the established contact points will facilitate overall coordination of related activities.

Article 19
Confidentiality, protection and sharing of information

1. The Sides undertake to keep confidential any information, document or other material communicated to them as confidential by the other Side, not to disclose it to third parties without the prior written consent of the originating Side, and not to use any such information for any purpose other than the implementation of this Working Arrangement, even after the termination of the Working Arrangement.

2. Conditions under which EU classified information may be shared between the Sides in the framework of this arrangement will be set out in a separate administrative arrangement.

   Any sharing of sensitive non-classified information under this working arrangement[6]:
   a) will be handled by the EUAA in accordance with Article 9 of Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/443, as well as any relevant internal acts and handling

[6] *On the part of the EUAA, this working arrangement constitutes a Memorandum of Understanding for the purposes of Article 9(3) of the Decision of the Executive Director No 49 of 14 May 2024 on the handling of sensitive non-classified and RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED information.*

instructions adopted pursuant to Management Board Decision No 109[7], and their successors;

b) will be handled by FRA in accordance with Article 9 of Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/443, as well as any relevant internal acts and handling instructions adopted pursuant to Articles 18 and 19 of FRA's Management Board Decision 2019/03[8], and their successors.

3. Should one of the Sides under the rules concerning public access to documents[9] receive an application to disclose documents originating from the other Side or drafted jointly as part of this Working Arrangement, the requested Side is to consult with the originating Side prior to any disclosure of the identified documents.

Article 20
Copyright

1. The Sides guarantee that, unless otherwise indicated, they hold the rights for the publication, reproduction, translation and dissemination of all the component parts such as texts, photos, tables, graphs and illustrations, of the materials they share between them under this Working Arrangement and that any third-party rights are duly respected.

2. Any material developed jointly in connection with this Working Arrangement will acknowledge the involvement of both Sides.

3. Unless otherwise specified in separate agreements, both Sides equally share the ownership of the results and of all intellectual property rights of the joint materials created specifically under this Working Arrangement.

Article 21
Protection of Personal Data

1. When the information exchange between the Sides contains personal data, any transmission of such data from one Side to another, will be carried out in accordance with the applicable data protection rules, including those of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, the Sides' internal rules and the relevant provisions in the Sides' respective founding Regulations, where applicable.

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[7] Management Board Decision 109 of 8 July 2022 establishing measures on the application of the security principles relating to the processing of sensitive non-classified information.

[8] Decision of the Management Board of the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) on security rules and rules on protecting restraint UE/EU restricted information in FRA of 17 May 2019.

[9] Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43).

2. The Sides may in particular agree on additional special arrangements in order to ensure the lawful processing of personal data contained in the information exchanged between them as deemed appropriate.

Article 22
Evaluation of the cooperation

The Sides agree to meet at least once a year to evaluate the implementation of this Working Arrangement and to discuss concrete cooperation activities.

Article 23
Settlement of disputes

All disputes which may emerge in connection with the interpretation or application of this Working Arrangement will be settled by means of consultations and negotiations between representatives of the Sides, in the spirit of good cooperation.

Article 24
Expenses

Each Side intends to bear its own expenses arising in the course of the implementation of this Working Arrangement, unless otherwise agreed in writing on a case-by-case basis or in a separate service level agreement.

Article 25
Amendments of the Working Arrangement

This Working Arrangement may be amended at any time by mutual agreement between the Sides in line with their respective mandates.

Article 26
Termination of the Working Arrangement

This Working Arrangement may be terminated by each Side with six months of written notice.

Article 27
Entry into force

This Working Arrangement shall enter into force on the day of signature by the last Side.

This Working Arrangement replaces the Working Arrangement between the EASO and FRA, signed on 11 June 2013.

This September day of twenty-eighth, two thousand and twenty-six, in duplicate in the English language. [SIGNED] **Nina Gregori, Executive Director** **For the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)**	This September day of twenty-eighth, two thousand and twenty-six, in duplicate in the English language. [SIGNED] **Sirpa Rautio, Director** **For the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)**