

## Press Release

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### **The European Union signs a working arrangement with the Swiss Federation on its participation in the work of EASO**

***The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) welcomes the arrangement, signed today in Brussels, between the European Union and the Swiss Federation on the modalities of its participation in EASO.***

The working arrangement was signed by Ambassador Theodoros N. SOTIROPOULOS, Permanent Representative of the Hellenic Republic to the European Union, Chairman of the Permanent Representatives Committee and Ambassador Roberto BALZARETTI, Head of the Mission of Switzerland to the European Union. Mr Matthias Ruete, Director General for Home Affairs, European Commission was also present for the signing.

The working arrangement will allow Switzerland to participate in EASO's work and be entitled to receive support from EASO. Moreover, nationals of Switzerland may be engaged under contract by EASO. Finally, Switzerland will be represented in the EASO Management Board as observers. The agreement is one of four working arrangements on the participation of the Associate Countries (Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Iceland) in the work of EASO.

The arrangement will come into force once the national ratification process is finalised, the European Parliament gives its consent and the Council gives its final decision on the conclusion of the arrangement.

*Any further information may be obtained from the European Asylum Support Office by contacting Mr Jean-Pierre Schembri on the following e-mail address: [jean-pierre.schembri@easo.europa.eu](mailto:jean-pierre.schembri@easo.europa.eu)*