A delegation of six MEPs travelled to Denmark, where they were joined by two Danish MEPs. (see list of participants, annex 1). The mission was chaired by Mr Panayiotis DEMETRIOU (EPP-ED) and the rapporteur was Mrs Martine ROURE (PES). The visit took place on the 10 and 11 April 2008 (see draft programme, annex 2).

1. Context of the visit to Denmark

The LIBE committee organised since 2005 several visits EU Member States (Italy (Lampedusa), Spain (Ceuta and Melilla, Canary Islands), France (Paris), Malta, Greece (Samos and Athens), Belgium, UK, the Netherlands, Poland.

The purpose of these visits was to gather information, to ascertain directly the situation regarding the reception of migrants and asylum seekers and to understand how several European directives and regulations are implemented:

- Council Regulation (EC) No 343/2003 of 18 February 2003 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national ³ (Dublin II Regulation)

Another purpose of the visits was also to exchange views with government authorities and representatives of the civil society.

¹ Official Journal L 031, 06/02/2003 P. 0018 – 0025
² Official Journal L 326, 13/12/2005 P. 0013 – 0034
³ Official Journal L 050, 25/02/2003 P. 0001 - 0010
The members of the LIBE Committee expressed their interest in a delegation to Denmark, in order to better understand the situation regarding the reception of migrants and asylum seekers in Denmark.

**In this context, it is worth noting that Denmark has a different situation in comparison with the other EU Member States, as concerns migration and asylum matters.**

Pursuant to the Protocol on Denmark which is appended to the Amsterdam Treaty, Denmark does not take part in measures based on Title IV of the EC Treaty other than those relating to visa policy. As regards the development of the Schengen acquis, Denmark decides within six months of any decision adopted by the Council whether or not it will incorporate that decision into its laws.

As concerns the following instruments:


▶ In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of the Protocol on the position of Denmark, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty establishing the European Community, Denmark is not taking part in the adoption of these Directives and is not bound by them or subject to their application.

As concerns:

- The Eurodac and the Dublin II regulations

In order to enable Denmark to participate, an international agreement between the Community and Denmark had to be drawn up, together with a Protocol to the Agreement between the Community, Iceland and Norway.

▶ Since 2006, Denmark is bound by the Dublin II and Eurodac regulations in its relations with the Community on the one hand and with Iceland and Norway on the other but it does not take part in any other measure adopted at European level in respect of the common asylum policy.

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4 According to Article 7 of the Protocol, Denmark can at any time renounce to the Protocol on Denmark which is appended to the Amsterdam Treaty and take part in all measures under Title IV of the EC Treaty
5 Official Journal L 031, 06/02/2003 P. 0018 – 0025
6 Official Journal L 326, 13/12/2005 P. 0013 – 0034
8 Council Regulation (EC) No 343/2003 of 18 February 2003. - Council Regulation (EC) No 343/2003 of 18 February 2003 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national (Dublin II Regulation)
2. The visit of the LIBE delegation to Denmark

The visit to Denmark was an opportunity to:

1/ Visit 3 centres:

- **Sandholm Camp for asylum seekers**, open centre managed by the Danish Red Cross;

  *Sandholm Camp for asylum seekers is the biggest asylum centre in Denmark, and this is also where all asylum seekers go when they first arrive in Denmark. It is managed by the Danish Red Cross, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs.*

- **Ellebæk Foreigners' Detention Centre**, managed by the Prison and Probation Service;

  *This Detention Centre is the only closed detention centre operated in Denmark. It is managed by the Ministry of Justice. The Detention Centre has a capacity of 118. During this visit, delegates received explanations from Deputy General Director Annette Esdorf, Governor of Ellebæk Henrik Boe Pedersen, Leading Prison Officer Niels Etlard Johannesen.*

- **Centre Kongelunden**, open centre managed by the Danish Red Cross.

  In the centres managed by the Red Cross, the Director Mr. Jörgen Chemnitz, Head of Danish Red Cross Asylum Department, provided the LIBE delegates with general information about the centres, organised a tour around the centres and made sure that it was possible for the delegates to discuss with asylum seekers.

2/ Have a meeting with Mr. Claes NILAS, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs

3/ Have a meeting with NGOs who sent an appeal to the LIBE Committee in 2006 (see list in annex 3)

The delegation was accompanied by the Audiovisual Service of the European Parliament working with a local TV crew. The idea was to present that European activity through *Europe by Satellite* (EbS). The visit received very good press coverage. The photographer and the TV crew were allowed to enter into the open centres managed by the Red Cross but not in the Detention centre.

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Annex 1

European Parliament
Committee on civil liberties, justice and home affairs
Delegation to Denmark
10 - 11 April 2008

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
Version 08.04.2008

MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Panayiotis DEMETRIOU (EPP-ED) (Head of delegation)
Martine ROURE (PSE) (Rapporteur)

Edit BAUER (EPP-ED)
Frieda BREPOELS (EPP-ED)
Jeanine HENNIS-PLASSCHAERT (ALDE)
Metin KAZAK (ALDE)

Søren Bo SØNDERGAARD (GUE/NGL) (hors quota)
Britta THOMSEN (PSE) (hors quota)

ASSISTANTS TO MEMBERS

Pauline CHAIGNE (assistant to Martine ROURE)

STAFF OF THE POLITICAL GROUPS

Annie LEMARCHAL (PES)
Anders RASMUSSEN (ALDE)
Christine SIDENIUS (Greens/EFA)
Michael SPEISER (EPP-ED)
Mette TONSBERG (GUE/NGL)

STAFF OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

Ana DUMITRACHE (administrator)
Vita GRIFITA (assistant)
STAFF OF THE WEB COMMUNICATION UNIT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Olav GADE

STAFF OF EUROPE BY SATELLITE

Maria Teresa CONESA ALCAZAR
Casper THORSØEJR (cameraman)
Leif MØLLER (soundman)

INTERPRETERS

FR
Maurizio GASTALDI (IT - EN - ES - PT)
Joseph LEROY (DE - IT - NL - DA)

EN
Aoife KENNEDY (FR - DE - NL)
Aase PEERLESS (DE - IT - DA - SV - NO)

NL
Kristel SIMONS (FR - IT - EN - DA - PT)
Petra LAMBRECHTS (FR - EN - DA - MT)

DA
Line ANDERSSEN (DE - EN - HU)
Suzanne LARSSON (FR - NL - EN - SV) - TEAM LEADER

HU
Gyorgy MAJZIK (EN)
Eva VIGILD (DA - EN)

For further information, please contact

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European Parliament
Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
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Mobile phone during the delegation to Denmark: 0032 (0) 475 75 46 68
Fax: 00 32 (0)2/28 44941
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European Parliament
Committee on civil liberties, justice and home affairs
Delegation to Denmark
10 and 11 April 2008

Draft programme
Version 08.04.2008

Meeting point for the delegates coming from Brussels with the flight at 14:50: at the boarding gate, Zaventem airport
Meeting point for the other participants: on 10.04.2008, at 17:30 at the European Parliament office in Copenhagen

Thursday, 10 April 2008

14:50 – 16:30 flight SN 2259 to Copenhagen
16:30 – 17:30 transfer by bus to the European Parliament office in Copenhagen
17:30 – 19:15 meeting with NGOs who sent an appeal to the LIBE Committee in 2006 (location: European Parliament office)
19:15 – 19:30 transfer by bus to the Kong Frederik Copenhagen hotel and registration at the hotel

Free diner (suggestions of restaurants will be distributed to the delegates)

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11 Europa-Parlamentet, Informationskontoret i Danmark, Europa-Huset, Gothersgade 115, DK-1123 København K, tel +45 / 33 14 33 77, fax +45 / 33 15 08 05
12 Europa-Parlamentet, Informationskontoret i Danmark, Europa-Huset, Gothersgade 115, DK-1123 København K, tel +45 / 33 14 33 77, fax +45 / 33 15 08 05
13 25 Vester Voldgade, 1552 Copenhagen, Denmark, Phone: (+45) 3321 5902, http://www.nhotels.dk/kongfrederik/index.htm
Friday, 11 April 2008

08:30 – 9:10 travel by bus to Sandholm (approx. 25 km from Copenhagen)
9:10 – 11:30 visit of the Sandholm centres\(^\text{14}\) (Sandholm Camp for asylum seekers and Sandholm Foreigners’ Detention Centre)

- Sandholm Camp for asylum seekers is the biggest asylum centre in Denmark, and this is also where all asylum seekers go when they first arrive in Denmark. It is managed by the Danish Red Cross, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs.
- Sandholm Foreigners Detention Centre is the only closed detention centre operated in Denmark. It is managed by the Ministry of Justice. The Detention Centre has a capacity of 118.

The delegates will first receive general information on the asylum work. A tour of the centre will follow, as well as a visit in the Detention Centre.

11:30 – 12:10 travel by bus to the Red Cross House in Copenhagen,
12:10 – 13:20 lunch hosted by Red Cross (location: Red Cross House\(^\text{15}\))
13:20 – 13:40 transfer by bus to the Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs\(^\text{16}\)
13:40 – 14:00 registration at the Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs (delegates need to have with them their ID card)
14:00 – 15:00 meeting with Mr. Claes NILAS, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs

15:00 – 15:45 travel to the Centre Kongelunden near Copenhagen airport\(^\text{17}\) (open centre managed by the Danish Red Cross)
15:45 – 17:45 visit of the Centre Kongelunden, including a meeting with the Red Cross
17:45 – 18:15 bus to the airport, proposed flight: SN flight nr. 2264 Copenhagen-Brussels, 19:30 - 21:05

For further information, please contact:
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Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
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E-mail ana.dumitrache@europarl.europa.eu

\(^\text{14}\) Center Sandholm, Dansk Røde Kors Center Sandholm, Sandholmgårdsvej, 3460 Birkerød, Denmark, Tel +45 48 10 77 00
\(^\text{15}\) H.C. Ørstedsgade 47, Frederiksberg
\(^\text{16}\) Holbergsgade 6, 1057 Copenhagen K
\(^\text{17}\) Asylum Centre Kongelunde, Kalvebodvej 250, DK- 2792 Dragør
### Annex 3

**List of participating NGOs for the meeting with the LIBE delegation on April 10th**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOS Against Racism, Denmark</td>
<td>SOS mod Racisme, Medborgerhuset, Nørre Allé 7, 2200 København N. Denmark. <a href="http://www.sosmodracisme.dk">www.sosmodracisme.dk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asylum Now</td>
<td>Asyl-Nu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grandparents for asylum</td>
<td>Bedsteforældre for asyl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danish Refugee Council</td>
<td>Dansk Flytningehjælp Borgergade 10 1300 København K <a href="http://www.flytning.dk">www.flytning.dk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Refugees Underground Committee</td>
<td>Flygtninge Under Jorden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The rights of all children</td>
<td>Alle børns rettigheder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Save the Children Denmark</td>
<td>Red Barnet Rosenørns Allé 12 1634 København V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Citizens for a Decent Denmark</td>
<td>Borgere for et Anstændigt Danmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Støttekredsen for flygtninge i fare</td>
<td>Skoleholdervej 41, 1. 2400 Kbh. NV, Denmark <a href="http://www.stoettekredsen.dk">http://www.stoettekredsen.dk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The authors' protest initiative</td>
<td>Forfatterinitiativet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Parsons' initiative</td>
<td>Præsteinitiativet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c/o Bodil Hindsholm Hansen</td>
<td>Udbynedervej 16, 8970 Havndal, Denmark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amnesty International</td>
<td>Dansk Afdeling/Danish Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gammeltorw 8, 5 sal</td>
<td>1457 København K. Denmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.amnesty.dk">www.amnesty.dk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Danish Immigrant Counselling</td>
<td>Indvanderrådgivningen Vesterbroage 14-butikken DK-8000 Århus C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kvindenettværket Henna</td>
<td>Documentation and Advisory Center On Racial Discrimination (DRC) Dokumentations- og Rådgivningscentret om Racediskrimination Medborgerhuset, Nørre Allé 7, 2. sal. 2200 København N. Denmark.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee for Ethnic Equality</td>
<td>Komitéen for Etnisk Ligestilling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>