



**PRESS RELEASE**

**Meeting between the Asylum Service and a delegation of Syrian refugees and  
Palestinian refugees from Syria**

Today, Thursday, January 08, 2015, a meeting was held between the Asylum Service and a delegation of Syrian refugees and Palestinian refugees from Syria together with citizens who support and assist them. In the course of the meeting, the following issues were emphasized:

- The Asylum Service, with its current staff and working at almost breakneck speed, registers, examines and issues decisions on the asylum applications of ten Syrians, including children, per day, as shown by the statistical data. Priority is given to families, the sick and pregnant women. The registration of asylum applications of children is equally demanding as the registration of the applications of adults.
- Travel documents are issued within 15 days, unless the person in question appears on a national or European list of persons not to be permitted entry. In that case, deletion from these lists has to precede the issuance of the travel document, so that the bearer does not run the risk of arrest in the event of using the document to travel. The consequent delay, beyond the aforementioned 15 days, is usually a matter of a few days.
- Regarding the applications for international protection which are submitted by Palestinians who were resident in Syria, the Asylum Service has looked into the various related issues and, as of Monday, 12 January 2015, those who have identification documents will also be dealt with under the fast-track procedure.
- It was emphasized that the asylum procedure is an especially complex procedure, the purpose of which is to grant international protection to those who are entitled to it, in accordance with international, European and national legislation. Granting international protection is an exceptionally serious administrative act which cannot be arbitrary for reasons of speed, and which requires an individualized approach.

The meeting was also attended by a representative of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).