

To the European Commission:  
DG Home, **Henrik Nielsen** for asylum  
[Henrik.Nielsen@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Henrik.Nielsen@ec.europa.eu); **Nicolas Bessot** (acting director)  
Communication, Agencies and Networks  
Coordination  
[nicolas.bessot@ec.europa.eu](mailto:nicolas.bessot@ec.europa.eu);  
DG EMPL, Director General **Joost Korte**  
[joost.korte@ec.europa.eu](mailto:joost.korte@ec.europa.eu)

CC: Nina Gregori, Executive Director  
EASO [Nina.gregori@easo.europa.eu](mailto:Nina.gregori@easo.europa.eu);  
Steven Haegemans  
[steven.haegemans@easo.europa.eu](mailto:steven.haegemans@easo.europa.eu);  
Anna Renieri, Head of Sector, EASO  
Italy [anna.renieri@easo.europa.eu](mailto:anna.renieri@easo.europa.eu) ;  
USF General Secretary Peter Kempen  
[p.kempen@gmx.net](mailto:p.kempen@gmx.net)

Brussels, 12 April 2021

Re: EASO operations in Italy and staff matters

Dear Mr Nielsen, Dear Mr Bessot,  
Dear Joost,

This is to express strong concerns regarding the termination on 31 March last of the employment contracts of 40 temporary workers at EASO operations in Italy.

At a time when the Covid-19 pandemic has left many workers without a job and sea arrivals of asylum-seekers to Italy continue, the termination of EASO labour contracts is extremely concerning. It will mean the loss of very specific skills acquired by the personnel during their employment and a deterioration of the quality of service provided to asylum-seekers.

It is all the more surprising as the latest operating plan between EASO and Italy of 17 December 2020 clearly indicates that the Italian asylum and reception system continues to face disproportionate pressure, also in view of the current health emergency measures. EASO support to Italy's national asylum services remains therefore critical to an effective implementation of the right to seek asylum including for dealing with the huge backlog of asylum cases, not least Dublin-related judicial proceedings.

Last July, in a letter addressed to EASO management, EPSU and its Italian affiliate FP-CGIL already expressed concerns regarding the large, frequent use of temporary workers in EASO's offices in Italy as well as in Greece and Malta. The letter also acknowledged that EASO

EPSU Secretariat 40 rue Joseph II, box 5 – 1000 Brussels, Belgium  
Phone: +32 2 250 10 80 Fax: +32 2 520 10 99 Mail: [epsu@epsu.org](mailto:epsu@epsu.org) [www.epsu.org](http://www.epsu.org)

European  
Federation  
of Public  
Service  
Unions

Federación  
Sindical  
Europea  
de Servicios  
Públicos

Fédération  
Syndicale  
Européenne  
des Services  
Publics

Europeiska  
Federationen  
för Offentlig-  
anställdas  
Förbund

Europäischer  
Gewerkschafts-  
verband für den  
Öffentlichen  
Dienst

Европейская  
Федерация  
Профсоюзов  
Общественного  
Обслуживания



EPSU is a member  
federation of the ETUC  
and represents  
PSI in Europe

management had expressed its intention to investigate “alternative deployments methods” to find a solution to avoid loss of skills of interim workers, we trusted that mutually beneficial solutions would be found.

As of today, however, no alternative employment has been found for more than 40 workers in EASO Italy operations. Further, it appears that EASO management has a very strict reading of the Italian law regarding the use of temping work in public administrations which, according to our view, does not justify the non-renewal of so many employment contracts and allows for alternatives. To make the matter worse, there has been very little dialogue if any between the Italian unions and management.

While the Italian union federation organising precarious workers (NidiL CGIL) is taking up the matter with the Italian public authorities, we, as unions of public service workers, deem it urgent to start a discussion with the European Commission, as member of EASO’s management board and Guardian of the treaties, on the long-term prospects of EASO and its staff. We expect good, secure employment conditions as well as an effective social dialogue including on restructuring matters across all EU agencies and institutions.

We would therefore welcome the opportunity to hold an online meeting with both the European Commission’s employment and asylum services as soon as possible, thanks.

Best regards,



EPSU General Secretary  
Jan Willem Goudriaan