



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO THE PHILIPPINES

Operations Section

Manila, OCT 03 2007  
EP D(2007) 176

**NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF MR. NICOLA ANNECCHINO  
HEAD OF UNIT, JLS B/2**

**Subject: Green Paper on the Future Common European Asylum System (CEAS)  
Philippine Government Feedback**

Following the Commission consultation launched in June, Department of Labour and Employment Secretary Brion has asked the Delegation to pass on his Department's comments on the Green Paper on the Future Common European Asylum System. We have also sent attached comments to [JLS-asile-livre-vert@ec.europa.eu](mailto:JLS-asile-livre-vert@ec.europa.eu)

Should you reply or exchange further information with DOLE, I would very much appreciate if you could also keep the Delegation informed.

Alistair MacDonald  
Head of Delegation

cc: Mr. L.Soreca, JLS A/2  
Mr. S.Gillespie, Ms. D. Dal Molin, RELEX H5  
Ms. B. Kolecka, Mrs. L.Andrade, AIDCO D1

Annexes: DOLE inputs on the Green Paper on the Future CEAS

Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT  
Intramuros, Manila

07 September 2007

Immigration and Asylum Unit-  
"Green Paper on Asylum"  
Directorate General Justice,  
Freedom and Security  
European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Philippine Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) submits its comments / inputs on this Green Paper on the Future Common European Asylum System (CEAS).

I hope you will find the Department's comments / inputs in order.

Very truly yours,



ARTURO D. BRION  
Secretary

 Dept. of Labor & Employment  
Office of the Secretary



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## COMMENTS/INPUTS ON THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM (CEAS) OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

- The goal of the EU to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to asylum in order to achieve a common standard of protection to individuals seeking access to the EU is a welcome policy that will address the efforts of the Philippine government to strengthen and enhance its border management capacity and effectively manage migration in accordance with international norms and protocols.
- Europe is an attractive labor market for Filipinos but restrictive immigration policies have encouraged irregular migration of Filipinos to certain EU Member States. With emerging labor opportunities in the EU, the Philippines would like to expand its market presence in the EU and secure legal access for qualified workers into these labor markets. Prevention and control of illegal migration as well as the protection of victims of human trafficking are critical concerns of the Philippine government with European receiving states, particularly the implementation of legal mechanisms for migration of Filipino workers which respects their basic human rights, and ensures welfare and protection of Filipino workers in the EU, including irregularly documented workers.
- The EU's migrant labor policy should include standards for admission and social inclusion, which must be uniformly applied throughout the Member States of the EU. Our migrant workers occasionally encounter disguised barriers to entry and social inclusion such as security considerations. The level of stringency of the enforcement of such standards that may be imposed by individual Member States of the European Union should be specified and the circumstances under which such standards will apply should likewise be specified in the interest of fair play and transparency.
- The Philippines, as a labor sending country, is committed to pursue measures at the national, bilateral, and multilateral level to issues and concerns brought about by the outflow of Filipino migrant workers, such as trafficking, social security, concerns on brain drain, health and safety, security against terrorism, with receiving states. In line with this, the Philippine government continues to coordinate with labor receiving countries, through the forging of bilateral agreements/arrangements with continuous dialogue, and collaborative partnerships with international organizations such as IOM, ILO, UNDP, etc., in managing the outflow of Filipino migrant workers.

- The Philippines entered into a bilateral agreement on 26 February 2004 with Italy, an EU Member State, on the Assisted Return and Readmission of Persons to facilitate the readmission of persons illegally entering or staying in the territory of the contracting parties and to ensure that these persons are treated in a dignified and human manner preserving their rights and protecting their interests.