

## DENMARK

### 1 Arrivals

#### 1 Total number of applications for asylum lodged, with monthly breakdown and percentage variation between years

Table 1:

Month	2003	2004	% Variation
January	404	324	-20%
February	420	300	-29%
March	397	296	-25%
April	343	235	-31%
May	381	304	-20%
June	376	288	-23%
July	327	246	-25%
August	460	302	-34%
September	422	292	-31%
October	380	221	-44%
November	355	205	-42%
December	328	222	-32%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4593</b>	<b>3235</b>	<b>-30%</b>

Source: Danish Immigration Service

#### Comments

As indicated, the figure of those applying for asylum (excluding quota refugees) continued to decrease in 2004 compared to the 2003 figures. The considerable decrease in 2004 is partly due to political changes that have taken place in some of the traditional refugee-producing countries, especially Afghanistan and Iraq. At the same time it is likely that the reputation of Denmark as a country with a very restrictive Aliens Act has discouraged large numbers of asylum seekers from applying to Denmark for asylum.

#### 2 Breakdown according to the country of origin/nationality of applicant, with percentage variation

Table 2:

Country	2003	2004	Variation +/- (%)
Serbia and Montenegro	750	784	-5%
Afghanistan	664	285	-57%
Iraq	442	217	-51%
Russia	269	163	-39%
Somalia	370	154	-58%
Stateless Palestinians	153	148	-3
Iran	158	140	-11
Bosnia Herzegovina	231	102	156
<i>Others</i>			

Source: Danish Immigration Service

### Comments

The statistics also include asylum applications lodged in Denmark including “safe third country” and “Dublin returns” as well as disappearances and withdrawals etc. during the preliminary asylum procedure. In 2004, the largest groups of asylum seekers came from Serbia Montenegro, Afghanistan, Iraq and Russia. The decrease in the number of asylum applications is reflected in the numbers of all nationalities, apart from those from Serbia and Montenegro.

### 3 Number of arrivals within the framework of family-reunification

Table 3:

Category	2003	2004
Spouse and cohabitants	2538	2344
-of refugees in Denmark	730	297
Minors	2170	1469
-of refugees in Denmark	1220	581
Parents over the age of 60	83	19
-of refugees in Denmark	19	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,791</b>	<b>3,832</b>

Source: Danish Immigration Service

### Comments

The total number of persons applying for family reunification in Denmark continued to decrease in 2004. Generally, the country by country recognition rates are stable, with the exception of Afghanistan where the figure dropped from 604 in 2003 to 267 in 2004.

### 4 Number of refugees who arrived during 2004 as part of a resettlement programme and the main national groups of these refugees

498 persons (2003: 509 persons).

Main national groups: Congo, Burma and Indonesia.

Source: Danish Immigration Service

### 5 Unaccompanied minors who arrived during 2004

128 persons (2003: 159 persons).

Source: Danish Immigration Service

In Denmark an unaccompanied minor is defined as a person under 18 years of age who enters the country either without parents or without persons who are responsible for them, for example older siblings or grandparents. Also children who enter the country accompanied, but who are later abandoned, are treated as unaccompanied minors.

The number of unaccompanied minors has decreased from 159 in 2003 to 128 in 2004. The number has been quite stable in the period between 2002 and 2004 and quite small compared to 2001, when 239 unaccompanied minors lodged asylum claims in Denmark. 78% of the minors in 2004 were males and 74% between the ages of 15 and 17.

### Asylum

All children can seek asylum in Denmark. The Danish Aliens Act does not contain special provisions for children. This means that in principle an unaccompanied minor must meet the same requirements and go through the same procedures as an adult asylum seeker. However, children are considered to be a particularly vulnerable group. This means two things: firstly, only children over the age of 12 are required to go through an actual asylum procedure and only after a concrete assessment of their personal and mental capacity (maturity). Minors of 15 years of age or above are always required to go through the normal procedure. Unaccompanied minors under the age of 12, or children not assessed to

be mature enough, are generally not taken through the asylum procedure and thus, are not asked to account for their claim in an interview. Instead, they are granted a special residence permit with reference to their being unaccompanied and minor. Secondly, every unaccompanied child registered as an asylum seeker in Denmark after 1 April 2003 will be assisted by a personally appointed representative, whose task it is to protect and uphold the rights and interests of the child. The representative will render support to the child during the examination of the asylum application; for example, by accompanying the child during the asylum interview. The representative will also support the child on a personal level. Once the Danish Immigration Service has established that the asylum seeker is an unaccompanied, underage individual, the county authority (*statsamt*), will formally appoint a representative. The representative will not be affiliated to the immigration authorities and can, for example, be a relative or some other private citizen. If a child's asylum case is decided upon in the framework of the manifestly unfounded procedure, the Danish Immigration Service will appoint a barrister to accompany and represent the child.

#### *Residence permit to unaccompanied minors*

Minors under the age of 12 are usually granted a special residence permit with reference to their being unaccompanied and minor. Children over the age of 12, who have been through the normal asylum procedure, but had their application rejected will in some cases be granted a special residence permit on grounds that the minor is unaccompanied and the parents cannot be located. This would apply, in particular, if the child would face severe difficulties surviving in his/her country of origin due to the lack of an adequate support network in the form of family, other adults, public assistance, etc. Information on the child's health and need for particular care or support will also be taken into consideration. Finally, the general situation in the child's country of origin, for example conditions of war, will be taken into account.

## 2 Recognition Rates

### 6 The statuses accorded at first instance and appeal stages as an absolute number and percentage of overall decisions

Table 4:

Statuses	2003				2004			
	First instance		Appeal		First instance		Appeal	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
No status awarded	2683	41	2571	39	1945	47	1660	40
Convention status	500	8	224	3	105	3	173	4
B-status	71	1	12	0.18	87	2	45	1
De facto status	199	3	320	5	18	0.44	79	2
Aps. before 1 July 2002 from abroad	17	0.26			40	1		
Resettlement refugees	509	8			498	12		
Humanitarian protection	203	3			351	8		
Exceptional reasons	67	1			60	1		
Temporary protection of Bosnians/Kosovans	325	5			136	3		

Source: Danish Immigration Service

#### Comments

De-facto status has been cancelled and B-status introduced since 1 July 2002. De-facto status may still be granted to applicants who lodged a claim prior to 1 July 2002, irrespective of when the Refugee Board examines the applications. People who are granted Convention status are issued with a temporary residence permit. After seven years - in certain cases the period can be shorter - a permanent residence permit is issued upon application, provided that certain conditions are met.

## 7 Refugee recognition rates (1951 Convention: as an absolute number and as a percentage of total decisions) according to country of origin, at first instance and appeal stages

Total decisions, first instance: 2004: 2155 (2003: 3453).

Total decisions, appeal 2004: 1957 (2003: 3127).

Table 5:

Country of origin	2003				2004			
	First instance		Appeal		First instance		Appeal	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Afghanistan	326	9	118	4	33	1	45	2
Somalia	26	0.8			1	0.05	5	0.3
Iran	18	0.5	38	1	6	0.3	21	1
Iraq	14	0.4	7	0.2				
Stateless Palestinians	14	0.4	13	0.1	8	0.4	47	2
Russia	10	0.3	10	0.3	14	1	18	1
Serbia Montenegro	9	0.2						

Source: Danish Immigration Service

## 8 Subsidiary and other status granted (as an absolute number and as a percentage of total decisions) according to country of origin, at first instance and appeal stages

Total decisions, first instance 2003: 3453.

Total decisions, appeal 2003: 3127.

Table 5(b1):

Country of origin	2003		B-Status				De-facto	
	First instance		Appeal		First instance		Appeal	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Afghanistan					41	1	93	3
Somalia	10	0.3	4	0.1	67	2	5	0.2
Iraq	3	0.1			37	1	72	2
Iran	4	0.1	2	0.06	18	0.5	28	1
Stateless Palestinians	3	0.1	5	0.2	4	0.1	8	0.3
Russia	38	3			5	0.1	12	0.4
Serbia Montenegro					5	0.1	34	1
- Kosovo					5	0.1	15	0.5
<b>Total</b>								

Source: Danish Immigration Service

Total decisions, first instance: 2004: 2155.

Total decisions, appeal 2004: 1957.

Table 5(b2):

2004	B-Status				De-facto			
	First instance		Appeal		First instance		Appeal	
Country of origin	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Afghanistan	4	0.2	4	0.2			11	0.7
Somalia	7	0.3	1	0.05	4	0.2	5	0.3
Iraq	3	0.1	4	0.2	4	0.2	33	1.7
Iran	4	0.2	15	0.8	7	0.3	4	0.2
Stateless Palestinians			1	0.05			1	0.05
Russia	50	2	5	0.3				
Serbia Montenegro			3	0.2	1	0.05	11	0.7
- Kosovo			2	0.1			2	0.1

Source: Danish Immigration Service

### 3 Returns, Removals, Detention and Dismissed Claims

#### 9 Persons returned on safe third country grounds

2 persons to Poland and Norway (2003: 10 persons).

Source: Danish Immigration Service

#### 10 Persons returned on safe country of origin grounds

None. The asylum application will instead be processed under the accelerated 'manifestly unfounded' procedure.

#### 11 Number of applications determined inadmissible

No figures available. See also s. 10 and 16.

#### 12 Number of asylum seekers denied entry to the territory

Entry to the territory of Denmark can only be denied to an asylum seeker if it is possible to return him/her to a safe third country.

#### 13 Number of asylum seekers detained, the maximum length of and grounds for detention

There are no official statistics as to the number of asylum seekers detained. In practice, short-term detention of asylum seekers in Denmark is widely used at all stages of the procedure.

##### *Grounds for detention:*

Upon arrival, if the police consider the detention to be necessary to enforce a potential refusal of entry (pending return to a safe third country or transfer under the Dublin Convention). In practice, detention is widely used when the applicant's identity and/or travel route have not been established.

For reasons of expediency in cases where an asylum seeker's claim is processed under the accelerated procedure for manifestly unfounded claims.

Where asylum seekers have committed criminal offences that have resulted in an expulsion order. These individuals can be kept in detention until the end of the asylum determination procedure.

Where asylum seekers obstruct the processing of their case, for example by failing to appear for interviews with the police or the Immigration Service, or refusing to provide information on identity, nationality or travel route.

In cases where applicants refuse to stay in the accommodation centre that has been allocated for them.

Following the rejection of an asylum seekers claim to ensure their deportation.

Where a rejected asylum seeker refuses to co-operate with the police regarding preparations for their departure from the country.

Except for those detained for criminal reasons, asylum seekers can only be detained if the police consider that alternative measures (for example deposit of passport or other travel document with the police, stay at an address determined by the police or reporting to the police at specific times) are insufficient to ensure their presence. In practice, however, the authorities make limited use of alternative measures.

Regarding rejected asylum seekers who do not wish to co-operate with the Danish authorities in arranging their deportation/departure, there is no upper limit to the length of detention as a motivational measure set in current legislation. The High Court (Landsretten) has in three cases during the past year released non co-operating asylum seekers detained as a motivational measure because the period of detention (a year or more) was disproportionate to the objective of detention. Due to the High Court rulings and the fact that the use of detention as a motivational measure does not apparently have the anticipated effect, the police will now consider the future use of detention as a motivational measure.

For reasons of expediency in cases where an asylum seeker's claim is processed under the accelerated procedure for manifestly unfounded claims, the maximum length of detention is seven days.

#### 14 Deportations of rejected asylum seekers

Table 6:

	2004	2003
Deportation with police officers:	259 persons	(408)
Deportation believed to have happened:	3024 persons	(3965)
Deportation observed by the police:	1591 persons	(1966)
Voluntary deportation:	93 persons	(92)
Total number of deportations:	4967 persons	(6431)

Source: Danish police.

#### Comments

Main countries to which asylum seekers were deported with police officers: Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro, incl. Kosovo.

At the time of writing the Danish police were not returning asylum seekers whose applications had been rejected to Iraq due to the political and security situation in the country.

#### 15 Details of assisted return programmes, and numbers of those returned

267 persons with permission to remain in Denmark returned to their country of origin. (2003: 183).

Table 7:

Main countries to which persons returned in 2004	
Iraq	141
Bosnia and Herzegovina (Srpska)	17
Lebanon	9
Afghanistan	8
Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	42
Somalia	10
Iran	8

Source: Danish Refugee Council.

On 2 June 1999, the Danish Parliament adopted the first Danish Act on Repatriation, which entered into force on 1 January 2000. The law applies to refugees, aliens with residence permits on

humanitarian grounds and immigrants, although some distinctions are made between them in terms of requirements and rights. Persons who have been reunited on the basis of family ties with an alien falling under one of these three categories are also included. Citizens of the Nordic and EU countries and the countries of the European Economic Area (EEA) are explicitly excluded.

Benefits include (2005 amounts):

One way ticket to the home country;

Freight costs for personal belongings (max. 2 sq. m. per person);

Cash amount of up to 25,500 DKr. (3,500 Euro) / adult and 8,160 DKr. (1,000 Euro) / minor child;

Purchase of professional equipment<sup>1</sup> up to 11,847 DKr. (1500) / adult and transportation of the equipment;

Transportation up to 11,847 DKr. (1500) of professional equipment already owned by the repatriate;

Cost of a 1-year health insurance, if no public health insurance is available in the home country;

Payment of prescribed medicine brought from Denmark and limited to a 1-year consumption period.

In certain cases a reintegration allowance can be granted either as a lifelong monthly payment or a monthly payment received for a five-year period.

To receive the reintegration allowance the applicant should:

Be incapable to cover his/her needs by other means;

Have a permanent residence permit in Denmark;

Have had a residence permit in Denmark for a minimum period of 5 years;

Be over 65 (from 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2005 60 years) years of age, or over 55 (from 1<sup>st</sup> of July 50 years) years but considered incapable of providing for him/herself, or has been granted a disability pension regardless of his/her age.

If the conditions are met, the applicant can choose to receive a monthly payment for five years or a smaller (80 %) monthly payment for life.

Repatriation benefits can only be granted once. Refugees, who have been repatriated to their home country but wish to return to Denmark, are allowed to do so within a period of one year following the repatriation. Upon application, the initial one-year period can be extended for another year.

The Danish Refugee Council runs the Voluntary Repatriation Programme for refugees (and immigrants). The programme primarily includes the following activities:

Advice and guidance for refugees and practical arrangements for their return journey;

Counselling services offered to Danish municipalities;

Visits to Bosnia-Herzegovina for elderly refugees to assess the possibility of return;

A small-scale business management course for Bosnian refugees (in Bosnia and Herzegovina);

Organisation of a course on democracy for employees from 17 Bosnian municipalities;

Other repatriation projects.

## 16 Number of asylum seekers sent back to the Member State responsible for examining the asylum application under the Dublin II Regulation

Table 8:

	2004		2003	
	Number	%	Number	%
Accepted to be taken back by other member states	1014	91.3	(961)	(90.7)
Refused to be taken back by other member states	49	4.4	(27)	(2.5)
Pending cases as of 31 December 2004	48	4.3	(72)	(6.8)
<b>Total</b>	<b>1111</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>(1060)</b>	<b>(100)</b>

<sup>1</sup> Professional equipment is that which makes it possible for the returnee to produce and sell articles or services which will somehow benefit a broader circle of persons. E.g. a cow, a taxi, equipment for hairdressing or sewing.



Table 9:

	2004		2003	
	Number	%	Number	%
Accepted to be taken back by Denmark	553	69.1		
Refused to be taken back by Denmark	112	14.0		
Pending cases as of 31 December 2004	135	16.9		
<b>Total</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>100</b>		

Source: Danish Immigration Service.

## 4 Specific Refugee Groups

### 17 Developments regarding refugee groups of particular concern

#### *Afghanistan*

As in 2003 only a few Afghan asylum seekers were recognised in 2004. It is the concern of the Danish Refugee Council, that the Danish authorities have become less receptive to individual and unpredicted cases of abuse carried out by local warlords against "ordinary" people. Furthermore, it should be noted that single women – women without husbands, brothers, and fathers – could be granted refugee status as members of a particular social group, since discrimination, harassment, abuse and oppression against women are widespread. However, this group is not being recognised on Geneva Convention grounds. Single women are instead granted a residence permit on humanitarian grounds.

A special repatriation package has been launched to motivate rejected asylum seekers from Afghanistan to return to their home country voluntarily. As part of the repatriation package the Danish Refugee Council has been offering counselling to those Afghans affected.

#### *Somalia*

The recognition rates dropped considerably for Somali asylum seekers in 2004. Still no forcible returns to the southern and central part of Somalia are being carried out.

#### *Chechnya*

Denmark receives few Chechen asylum seekers. It gives rise to concern that the Danish authorities require a very high profile conflict with the Russians to even consider granting refugee status in accordance with the Geneva Convention and its 1967 Protocol. Subsidiary forms of protection are often granted to Chechens. Chechens have one of the highest recognition rates in Denmark all in all - around 50% receive status. The Danish Refugee Board has only used/mentioned the internal flight alternative directly in cases concerning Russians, not Chechens. However, Chechens with "low-profile-conflicts" with the Russian are rejected with indirect reference to the internal flight alternative. The Danish Refugee Council (in accordance with recommendations from UNHCR) is very much against applying the concept of the internal flight alternative in these cases.

Please note that the Danish Immigration Service together with the Danish Refugee Council conducted a fact-finding mission to Moscow in May 2005 and the report will be available shortly – hopefully also in English.

#### *Iraq*

During the war in Iraq decision making on individual asylum-cases lodged by Iraqi asylum-seekers was suspended from March 2003 until January 2004. From this date the Immigration Service (1. instance) and the Appeals Board (2. instance) have been assessing claims and the vast majority of cases have been rejected. The Appeals Board has dealt with approx. 685 cases since then, 17 were granted de-facto status and 6 b-status (both subsidiary protection).



A special repatriation package has been launched to motivate rejected asylum seekers from Iraq to return to their home country voluntarily. At present it is not possible to forcibly deport rejected asylum seekers from Iraq because the local authorities (supported by the Americans) refuse to receive rejected asylum seekers fearing that it will have a destabilising effect on the country.

#### *Tsunami affected regions*

Very few persons from tsunami affected regions come to Denmark and apply for asylum. Denmark has been on several selection missions to Malaysia within the past years and accepted several hundred persons from the Tsunami affected regions, mainly Aceh in Indonesia, for resettlement in Denmark.

#### *Women*

The Danish authorities do not consider "particular social group" to be an independent category, and gender alone is not considered a reason for asylum. If asylum is granted it will most likely be in the form of subsidiary protection. Subsidiary protection is granted to the said women instead of status according to the Geneva Convention in gender related cases. It is unlikely that a person will receive refugee status due to domestic considerations. This will only happen if the risk of persecution is high and the authorities are not able or are unwilling to protect the said individual. The Appeals Board has a tendency to refuse gender-related persecution as a reason for asylum and see it as private conflict. It refers women to seek protection with their national authorities.

Apart from one Red Cross Center named "Fasan" for women and children there is no special accommodation for women. Where possible a female interpreter and caseworker is used during RSD.

#### *Children*

There has been a significant fall in the percentage of unaccompanied minor asylum seekers who are being recognised as refugees or after having their asylum claim rejected are granted residence permits on grounds that the minor is unaccompanied and would face severe difficulties surviving in their country of origin.

## **5 Legal and Procedural Developments**

### **18 New legislation passed**

The financial support for asylum seekers in the accelerated procedure for manifestly unfounded claims has been reduced to an absolute minimum.

The "motivational measure" of withdrawing cash payments and replacing these with the delivery of a food box for asylum seekers whose applications have been rejected who refuse to co-operate with the police regarding their deportation from Denmark has been cancelled. The reason for this is the high administrative cost of the scheme and the fact that it did not have the expected effect. Instead rejected asylum seekers living in asylum centres without a cafeteria will again receive a cash payment. For non co-operating asylum seekers whose applications have been rejected living in asylum centres with a cafeteria there will be no change, they will still not receive a cash payment.

The obligation to take into consideration the unity of the family in for example family reunification cases has been emphasised.

In the selection of refugees for resettlement in Denmark integration potential has become the prime criterion. The role of the Danish Refugee Council in the selection of refugees for resettlement has been considerably reduced; instead the local municipalities play a significant role. In the future, the majority of cases will be taken up by selection missions. Only cases where there are urgent protection or medical needs will be accepted as dossier cases. Better preparation of refugees selected to come to Denmark has been emphasised.

The issuance of a visitors visa can in certain cases be conditional upon a guarantee that the visiting person will not apply for a permanent stay (incl. asylum) in Denmark. See section 29.

## **19 Changes in refugee determination procedure, appeal or deportation procedures**

No developments.

## **20 Important case-law relating to the qualification for refugee status and other forms of protection**

At the beginning of 2005 the Appeals Board reversed the decision of the Immigration Service (first instance) to apply the cessation clause in the case of Afghan refugees in eight test cases. The Appeals Board very clearly stated that the situation in Afghanistan was not yet sufficiently stable.

## **21 Development s in the use of the exclusion clauses of the Refugee Convention in the context of the national security debate**

The national security debate goes on, but it is not clear as to whether it has made any impact on the actual use of the exclusion clauses.

## **22 Developments regarding readmission and cooperation agreements**

The Danish government entered into a tripartite agreement with the Afghan government and UNHCR regarding the return of Afghani citizens without a residence permit; this included possible use of forced. The co-operation between the Danish and Afghani governments regarding deportation of rejected asylum seekers is working well according to the Danish police.

Bosnia-Herzegovina has re-entered into a readmission agreement with the Danish government. The co-operation between the Danish and Bosnia-Herzegovina government regarding deportation of rejected asylum seekers is working well according to the Danish police.

## **6 The Social Dimension**

### **23 Changes in the reception system**

In co-operation with the Danish Red Cross, the Immigration Service takes care of the accommodation and financial support of asylum seekers until they have either been granted asylum in Denmark or have left the country. Due to the decrease in the number of asylum seekers in Denmark, several asylum centres have closed down. The financial support for asylum seekers in the accelerated procedure for manifestly unfounded claims has been reduced to an absolute minimum. For an adult with no children the amount is approx. 160 Euro a month and for a couple with two children it is approx. 575 Euro a month. This support is given to asylum seekers who live at an asylum centre without a cafeteria (free food). Asylum seekers in the 'ordinary' manifestly unfounded procedure receive a higher amount.

### **24 Changes in the social welfare policy relevant to refugees**

The major political parties entered into a political agreement regarding integration of refugees and immigrants. The objective is the improvement of integration, primarily by getting more refugees and immigrants into jobs and education. Motivation by economic 'punishment' of those who do not get a job or educate themselves is a prominent part of the agreement. The agreement has been widely criticised.

## **25 Changes in policy relating to refugee integration**

See section 24.

## **26 Changes in family reunion policy**

A change of practice has been implemented in order to give persons applying for family reunification with a spouse in Denmark easier access in certain situations to stay in Denmark during the processing of the case.

From 2002 the easy terms regarding family reunification of a recognised refugee with a spouse has not applied if the refugee married after seeking refuge away from his/her home country. Following international condemnation, the practice reversed so that the easy terms again apply in certain situations even if the refugee married after seeking asylum.

## **7 Other Policy Developments**

### **27 Developments in resettlement policy**

The integration potential of resettled refugees has become the prime selection criterion. The role of the Danish Refugee Council in the selection of refugees for resettlement has been considerably reduced, instead local municipalities play a significant role. In the future the majority of cases will be taken through selection tours and only cases with urgent protection needs or medical needs will be accepted as dossier cases. Better preparation of refugees selected to go to Denmark is also a priority.

### **28 Developments in return policy**

Speedy and efficient deportation of asylum seekers whose applications have been rejected is high on the political agenda. Lately there has been a tendency towards more focus on counselling and financial and other forms of support in order to encourage rejected asylum seekers to return home.

Special repatriation packages have been launched to motivate asylum seekers whose applications have been rejected from Afghanistan and Iraq to return to their home countries voluntarily.

### **29 Developments in border control measures**

Persons from the main refugee producing countries need a visa in order to travel to Denmark. The visa practice regarding the main refugee producing countries is very restrictive. As a main rule only spouses, cohabitants, minor children and parents can be granted a visa, and in the case of Iraq and Somalia only in extraordinary situations. The visa practice regarding certain other countries is a little less restrictive, in the way that persons outside the closest family can also be granted a visa. But for this group rules implemented in the autumn of 2004 has allowed authorities to make the issuance of a visa conditional upon agreement of a guarantee by the Danish reference of up to 50,000 DKr (approx. 6,700 Euro). The guarantee is due if the person granted a visa for example applies for asylum in Denmark.

### **30 Other developments in refugee policy**

No developments.

## **8 Political Context**

### **31 Government in power during 2004**

The two-party coalition of the Conservative People's Party and 'Venstre', the largest liberal party in Denmark, remained in power in 2004. This coalition depends on the votes of the far-right Danish Peoples Party for its parliamentary majority.

### **32 Governmental policy vis-à-vis EU developments**

Despite the Danish government's reservation in the area of asylum and migration, in most fields it attaches great importance to keeping national legislation consistent with EU legislation.

### **33 Asylum in the national political agenda**

The government and to some extent the opposition parties support the restrictive asylum policy. However, frequent individual stories in the media on rejected asylum seekers lead more or less everyone to agree that the asylum rules have become too restrictive.

Focus in the political agenda in the past year has mainly been on the following issues:

Deportation of rejected asylum seekers sitting in Danish asylum centres;

Integration of refugees and immigrants, which thus far has not been as successful as one could have hoped;

The long, and often damaging time, asylum seekers spend in asylum centres;

Living conditions at the asylum centres.

## **Biography**

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DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL

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