The ministers of the EU and Schengen countries have agreed on a new set of rules for return

EU and Schengen ministers have agreed on new rules for returning people without legal residence, aiming to make returns faster and more efficient. The regulations introduce clearer detention rules, stricter requirements for non-cooperating third-country nationals, and the possibility of establishing return centres in third countries. Returns will now apply not only to individual countries but to the entire Schengen/EU area.

Norway actively participated in the negotiations to ensure national flexibility, such as the 48-hour procedure and to maintain effective cooperation in European return systems. The agreement prioritises efficient return processes while balancing national discretion. The final regulations still require parliamentary approval.

Source(s)

- Ministry of Justice and Public Security | Justis- og beredskapsdepartementet (8 December, 2025), Enighet om nye regler for retur av personer uten lovlig opphold i Europa [Agreement on new rules for the return of persons without legal residence in Europe], https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/enighet-om-nye-regler-for-retur-av-personer-uten-lovlig-opphold-i-europa/id3142302/

Date of development
08.12.2025
Country
Norway
Thematic area(s)
Return
Development type
Legislation

© European Union Agency for Asylum, 2026. Reproduction is authorised, provided the source is acknowledged.