Government advances plans for asylum processing outside of Europe and developing joint return hubs

The government is working on the possibility of processing asylum applications outside of Europe, alongside establishing return hubs, discouraging dangerous migration journeys and ensuring the humane reception of refugees in the region.

Following the Clingendael report *Pushing Boundaries*, the government considered the arrangements to be legally feasible, although their implementation requires a lengthy process and international cooperation. The Netherlands is working with Greece, Germany, Austria and Denmark on a joint return hub, and with Denmark, Malta and Sweden on options to process asylum applications outside of Europe, with the aim of taking concrete steps before the end of 2026.

Source(s)

- Government | Rijksoverheid (22 May, 2026), Kabinet zet stappen naar behandeling van asielaanvragen buiten Europa [Cabinet takes steps to process asylum applications outside Europe], https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2026/05/22/kabinet-zet-stappen-naar-behandeling-van-asielaanvragen-buiten-europa

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