Ireland publishes the EU Asylum & Migration Pact National Implementation Plan

inister for Justice Jim O'Callaghan today received government approval to submit Ireland's National Implementation Plan for the EU Asylum and Migration Pact to the European Commission

Brief on the National Implementation plan is available at: https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/brief-on-irelands-national-implementation-plan-for-the-eu-migration-and-asylum-pact.pdf

Ireland's National Implementation Plan (NIP) outlines the plan for significant reform of Ireland's asylum laws through new legislation, processes, technology and structures. The transition plan will ensure readiness for when the EU Migration and Asylum Pact (the Pact) comes into effect in June 2026.

The Pact is a new EU framework to manage migration and asylum for the long-term. The overall objective of the Pact is to provide a fair, sustainable and efficient asylum procedure. This will be done through stronger governance of asylum and migration policies and through convergence in asylum practises across the EU.

The NIP provides for:

- the replacement of the current international protection decision process with a streamlined single first-instance decision on refugee status, subsidiary protection, and return/permission to stay. This will be followed by a single appeal to cover refugee status, subsidiary protection, and return/permission to stay
- a mandatory border procedure will apply for asylum applicants who are unlikely to need protection, who mislead the authorities or who present a security risk. There will be a 12-week time limit for completed first instance and appeal decisions for those applicants from countries of origin with a recognition rate of 20% or less across the EU, those who have no documents or false documents, or those are deemed a security risk
- new institutional arrangements to replace the current International Protection Office (IPO) and International Protection Appeals Tribunal (IPAT)
- a new extended scope EuroDac (European asylum database) to track all irregular arrivals and asylum applications, reduce the age for taking of

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fingerprints to provide stronger protection for at-risk children, and to record additional data including security flags
- the replacement of the Dublin Regulation with the Asylum and Migration Management Regulation (AMMR) to improve systems for responsibility (returning applicants efficiently to the Member State responsible for processing) and solidarity (supporting Member States under migratory pressure through relocation of applicants or the provision of financial or other supports)
- investment in IT systems to support case processing and data sharing to meet the tighter processing times stipulated by the new EU Pact
- investment in staff recruitment and training
- new reception conditions arrangements to align with the new Reception Conditions Directive and provide for Border Procedure Centres, Standard Needs Centres, Basic Needs Centres and Unaccompanied Minors' accommodation. The Plan provides for co-location of screening and processing services
  enhanced vulnerability and security screening to ensure applicants are processed and supported through the appropriate procedure (Border, Accelerated, Ordinary, Inadmissible)
- legal counselling and legal assistance systems to support applicants and ensure the legal sustainability of new processing systems
- a new fundamental rights monitoring mechanism to ensure that the fundamental rights of applicants and migrants affected by the Pact are upheld
- new legislation to replace the International Protection Act 2015 and elements of Immigration Acts to underpin the new systems outlined above

The NIP was developed by a dedicated EU Pact Programme team in the Department of Justice with cross-government support and in consultation with internal and external stakeholders. The plan will soon be presented to the EU Commission after which the focus will move towards the implementation of the plan to enable the State to meet the requirements of the Pact which comes into effect in June 2026.

On 27 March 2024 that Ireland opted-in to the seven non-Schengen measures of the EU Migration and Asylum Pact:

Regulation (EU) 2024/1348: Asylum Procedures Regulation
Regulation (EU) 2024/1358: Eurodac Regulation
Regulation (EU) 2024/1351: Asylum and Migration Management Regulation

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Regulation (EU) 2024/1359: Crisis and Force Majeure Regulation
Directive (EU) 2024/1346: Reception Conditions Directive (recast)
Regulation (EU) 2024/1347: Asylum Qualification Regulation
Regulation (EU) 2024/1350: EU Resettlement Framework

Although Ireland cannot opt-in to the Schengen measures in the Pact, particularly the Screening Regulation and the Return Borders Procedure Regulation, it is proposed to align national measures with them as appropriate.

Source(s)

- Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration | An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt, Gnóthaí Baile agus Imirce (26 March, 2025), [Minister O'Callaghan receives government approval for the EU Asylum & Migration Pact National Implementation Plan], https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-justice-home-affairs-and-migration/press-releases/minister-ocallaghan-receives-government-approval-for-the-eu-asylum-migration-pact-national-implementation-plan/

Date of development
26.03.2025
Country
Ireland
Thematic area(s)
Digitalisation, Pact on Migration and Asylum, Asylum Migration Management Regulation, Asylum Procedure Regulation, Qualification Regulation, Crisis and Force majeure Regulation, Eurodac Regulation, Screening Regulation, Resettlement Framework Regulation, Reception Conditions Directive
Development type
Policy

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