

Information brochure

International protection in Belgium



English

Content

1. International protection in Belgium	4
2. When to apply for international protection?	5
3. Some key concepts.....	6
3.1 What is an application for international protection?	6
3.2 Who is an applicant for international protection?.....	7
3.3 What is Dublin ?	7
3.4 What is a final decision	7
3.5 When to speak of a subsequent application for international protection? ..	7
3.6 What are biometric data?.....	8
4. Access to the procedure	8
4.1 Where to apply for international protection?	8
4.2 When does the procedure start?.....	8
4.2.1 Making and registering the application.....	9
4.2.2 Lodging the application	13
5. Will my special procedural needs be taken into account?	16
6. The Dublin Regulation.....	17
6.1 When does the Dublin Regulation apply?	18
6.2 Can I be forcibly transferred to the responsible Member State?	18
7. Will the Immigration Office hear me?.....	19
7.1 What is the role of the IO employee and the interpreter?.....	19
7.2 What is the finality of the hearing?	20
7.3 Ending of the hearing.....	21
7.4 Duty of cooperation	21
7.5 How will the hearing be organised?	22
8. Which documents will be issued?	23
8.1 During the procedure	23
8.2 After granting refugee status	24
8.3 After granting subsidiary protection status	24
8.4 After rejection of the application for international protection	25
9. Can I have my identity details changed?	26
10. I am a minor and unaccompanied. What do I have to do?.....	26
11. Can I be assisted by a lawyer during the procedure?	28
12. What if I want to return to my country of origin?.....	29
13. Can I be detained during the procedure?	30
14. What does the Immigration Office do with my personal data?	30
15. Useful addresses	31

1. International protection in Belgium

Any foreigner located on Belgian territory can apply for international protection in Belgium to the competent Belgian authorities.

The different authorities involved are:



The Immigration Office (io)

The Immigration Office is the authority responsible for the access, residence, establishment and removal of foreigners in Belgium.

The Immigration Office registers the application for international protection and will determine whether Belgium - or another member state - is responsible for processing the application.

<https://dofi.ibz.be/>



The Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS)

The CGRS is the competent authority to examine the application for international protection. The CGRS will assess the need for protection.

<https://www.cgra.be/>



The Council for Alien Law Litigation (CALL)

The CALL is an administrative court. If a foreign national does not agree with a decision made by the IO or the CGRS, they can lodge an appeal with the CALL.

The CALL will deliver a judgment on the appeal.

The CALL is also competent to reverse the decision of the CGRS and to grant protection status (refugee or subsidiary protection) in full jurisdiction.

The CALL may also decide to send the file back to the IO or CGRS if additional investigation is required.

<https://www.rvv-cce.be/>



The Council of State (COS)

The CoS is a court where an appeal can be lodged against a decision of the CALL.

<http://www.raadvanstate.be/>



Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers (FEDASIL)

Fedasil is competent for the reception of applicants for international protection. Fedasil is also responsible for the medical screening of all applicants for international protection.

In addition, Fedasil also provides support for voluntary return to the country of origin.

<https://www.fedasil.be/>

2. When to apply for international protection?

You can apply for international protection in Belgium if you fear persecution or serious harm in case of return to your country of origin.

The first thing to be determined is which Member State is responsible for processing your application.

If Belgium is responsible for processing your application, the CGRS will first examine your eligibility to obtain refugee status. If this is not the case, it will investigate whether you are eligible to obtain subsidiary protection status.

Read more about the Dublin Regulation in section 6. Dublin.

REFUGEE STATUS

You may be granted refugee status if you fear persecution because of your race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership of a particular social group AND if you cannot rely on protection from your own authorities.

These criteria were laid down in the Geneva Convention dated 28 July 1951 (also called the “Refugee Convention”).



SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION STATUS

If you do not meet the conditions for being recognised as a refugee but are still at risk of serious harm in case of return to your country of origin, you may be granted subsidiary protection status.

Serious harm consists of:

- death penalty or execution;
- torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of an applicant in their country of origin;
- serious threat to a civilian’s life or person by reason of indiscriminate violence in situations of international or internal armed conflict.

3. Some key concepts

3.1 WHAT IS AN APPLICATION FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION?

An “**application for international protection**” means that a person applies for international protection from the Belgian authorities because of a fear of persecution or a risk of serious harm in case of return to their country of origin.

3.2 WHO IS AN APPLICANT FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION?

An “**applicant for international protection**” is a person who has made an application for international protection to the competent Belgian authorities until a final decision is made on their application.

3.3 WHAT IS DUBLIN?

Read more about the Dublin Regulation in section 6. Dublin.

In Europe, one cannot freely choose in which country one would like to obtain international protection. There are rules attached to this. These rules are contained in the Dublin Regulation; a regulation that determines which “*Dublin country*” should process the application for international protection. As soon as a request for international protection in Belgium has been made, the Immigration Office will examine whether Belgium or another “*Dublin country*” should process the request.

3.4 WHAT IS A FINAL DECISION?

When a decision has been made on your application (*namely whether or not a protection status will be granted*), and no further appeal against this decision is possible (*as provided for in the Aliens Act*), this is a “*final decision*”.

3.5 WHEN TO SPEAK OF A SUBSEQUENT APPLICATION FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION?

If you have already made an application for international protection in Belgium, on which a final decision has been taken AND you subsequently lodge a new application, this is a “*subsequent application for international protection*”.

Any subsequent applications - after a final decision has been made on the previous application - are also considered a “**subsequent application**”.

3.6 WHAT ARE BIOMETRIC DATA?

“*Biometric data*” are data such as fingerprints and a facial image (photograph), which are taken from each applicant for international protection

These can be used to do an (automatic) biometric comparison.

4. Access to the procedure

4.1 WHERE TO APPLY FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION?

Those wishing to apply for international protection in Belgium should present themselves to the Immigration Office **as soon as possible** and **in person**.

It is also possible to apply for protection:

- at the **border** with authorities in charge of border control;
- in a **detention centre** with the Immigration Office officials; or,
- in **prison** with the prison director.

4.2 WHEN DOES THE PROCEDURE START?

The international protection procedure does not start until the application has actually been lodged. This happens in several steps:

- Making the application
- Registering the application
- Lodging the application

Your **personal presence** is necessary at each of these steps.

4.2.1 Making and registering the application

If you are on Belgian territory and want to apply for international protection, you must present yourself at the Immigration Office, where you can make your application.

The IO will – if feasible – try to register your application on the same day.

When registering the application, you will be informed of how it can be lodged. The procedure only starts when you have actually lodged the application (*see further para. 4.2.3*).

If the application cannot be lodged on the same day, you will receive an “attestation of registration”. This document allows you to prove that you have made an application for international protection. From then on, you are an applicant for international protection.

The registration of the application for international protection includes:



Establishing the identity

Upon registration, the IO will establish your identity (surname, first name, date of birth, place of birth, nationality). Preferably, this is done on the basis of the identity documents you have in your possession. However, if you do not have any identity documents available, the data will be gathered based on your statements.

If you have original **identity documents**, or a **copy** of them, **it is essential to always bring them to the Immigration Office.**



Obtaining other relevant information

To complete the registration, the Immigration Office will check when you arrived in Belgium, whether you already have a residential address in Belgium, and whether you need reception.

You will also be asked whether you wish to be assisted by an interpreter further in the procedure.



Identifying potential vulnerabilities of the applicant

During registration, you will also be asked about any vulnerabilities. In the context of reception and as part of the further procedure, it is important to indicate whether you have any particular vulnerabilities that should be taken into account.



Informing the applicant about his rights and obligations

As an applicant for international protection, you are entitled to a number of rights, but you also have a number of obligations.

As an applicant for international protection, you are, for example, entitled to **reception** and can obtain **material assistance** from Fedasil.

Furthermore, as an applicant for international protection, you are protected against **refoulement**. This means that, throughout the international protection procedure, you may not be sent back to your country of origin, with the exception of the situations as provided in the Aliens Act.

Moreover, at no time during the procedure will the Belgian authorities contact or share information with

the authorities of your country of origin.

Please note that the right to reception can be limited.

On the other hand, as an applicant for international protection, you are expected to always tell the truth and **cooperate fully** during the procedure.

Therefore, if you have identity documents, you are **obliged to present** them as soon as possible when registering your application.

You are also **obliged** to submit, as soon as possible, any other elements that may help the competent authorities to determine the responsible Member State OR to examine your application.

Withholding documents, or refusing to produce/submit certain documents, may indicate a lack of cooperation.

A **lack of cooperation** may lead to you being detained in a well-defined place during your application, or to your application being fast-tracked by the CGRS,



Which documents are important?

Important documents include all documents concerning your age, background (including those of relevant family members), identity, nationality(ies), country(ies) and place(s) of previous residence, information on previous applications for international protection, your travel route, identity documents, etc. , as well as any other documents that can prove the problems encountered in your country of origin.

in case Belgium is responsible to examine your application.

You will be informed about your rights and obligations when registering your application.



Taking biometric data

When registering the application, an employee of the Immigration Office will take your photograph and fingerprints. The latter will be used to check whether you are already known to the Immigration Office or in another Dublin Member State.



The photo will be added to your administrative file and will be added to various documents you will receive from the Immigration Office as part of your procedure.

More information on registering an application can be found on the Immigration Office's website:

<https://tinyurl.com/dpipresentationENG>



Contact details:

Immigration Office (IO)

International Protection Department

e-mail : registration@ibz.fgov.be

4.2.2 Lodging the application

On the day of the registration or, at the latest, within 30 days of making your application, you will be given the opportunity to lodge your application.

However, some legal obligations must be met when lodging the application:



Choosing your place of residence in Belgium

Every applicant is obliged to choose residence in Belgium. The Immigration Office will ask you for your choice of residence. This may be the address where you actually reside, but you may also choose domicile with your lawyer, friends, family, etc. in Belgium.

The IO and the CGRS will send all correspondence concerning your procedure (such as invitations, requests for information, decisions, etc.) to this address.

If you do not choose a place of residence, the address of the CGRS will be considered your chosen residence and all of your correspondence will be sent to this address. This means that you will always have to come to the CGRS to retrieve your correspondence.

It is a **legal requirement** to always inform the IO and the CGRS when you change residence.

A special form is provided for this purpose, which you must send completed via registered post to the IO and CGRS.



This form has been attached to this brochure and can also be found on the IO website:



<https://tinyurl.com/dpiformsENG>



Please note that changing your place of residence and neither informing the Immigration Office nor the CGRS in due time may have negative consequences on your application for international protection. All your correspondence will be sent to the last known place of residence, which means that you will not receive certain documents or will receive them late.



Establishing the language of the procedure

When the application is lodged, the language of the asylum procedure will be determined. This can either be French or Dutch.

If your knowledge of French or Dutch is sufficient, you can choose either French or Dutch as your procedural language. If your knowledge of French or Dutch is insufficient, the Immigration Office will determine the language of the procedure according to the needs of the services and agencies.

Once the procedural language is established, it is maintained throughout the entirety of the procedure, including at the CGRS and the CALL.

The procedural language will also be maintained when you make a subsequent application.



Issuing the Annex 26/26quinquies

When the application is lodged, the Immigration Office issues an annex 26 (*if it is your first application for international protection*) or an annex 26quinquies (if it is a subsequent application).

This document includes your identity details, as well as your photograph. The document serves as proof that an application for international protection has been lodged.

However, this document is not a proof of identity or nationality.



Please note that if you do not comply with the invitation to lodge your application, your application will expire automatically. From that moment on, you are no longer an applicant for international protection.

If you still wish to lodge your application at a later date, your application will be reopened.

5. Will my special procedural needs be taken into account?

During the procedure you will be heard so that the authorities concerned can get a good picture of your personal situation and the reason(s) for your application. During this hearing, each applicant must have the same opportunity to tell their story in the best conditions, so that the application can be assessed properly.

An employee of the IO will complete a questionnaire with you to verify whether you have any special procedural needs or vulnerabilities that need to be taken into account in order to enable you to tell your story in the best possible way and under the best possible conditions. On the basis of your answers, the employee will check whether special support measures are required in your specific situation.

It is in your best interest to answer the questions as completely as possible and to provide all elements that could demonstrate your needs as soon as possible so that your personal situation can be taken into account during the procedure.

You always have the possibility to provide additional information or elements at a later stage in the procedure.



6. Dublin

The fact that you are in Belgium and have applied for international protection in Belgium does not automatically mean that Belgium will process your application.

The rules that determine which country is responsible for examining an application for international protection are laid down in the **Dublin Regulation**.

Cfr. Regulation 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person.



The rules in this regulation are applied by 31 countries, including Belgium.

As soon as a request for international protection in Belgium has been made, the Immigration Office will examine first which country – under the rules of the Dublin Regulation – is responsible for processing the application for international protection.



When registering your application, you will receive the brochure “I have applied for asylum in the EU - which country will process my application?” with more information on this topic.

This brochure is available in several languages and can be found on the IO’s website:



<https://tinyurl.com/DPIDublinENG>

6.1 WHEN DOES THE DUBLIN REGULATION APPLY?

The Dublin Regulation provides several criteria on the basis of which the decision can be made to launch a Dublin investigation. The investigation is carried out on the basis of all available information, such as identity documents, results of fingerprint tests, information obtained by the Belgian authorities from other Member States, and also on the basis of your own statements.



You will receive the brochure “I am in the Dublin procedure - what does it mean?” when a decision is made to launch a Dublin investigation for your application.

This brochure is available in several languages and can also be found on the IO’s website:



<https://tinyurl.com/DPIDublinENG>

If the investigation reveals that Belgium is not the Member State responsible for examining the application for international protection, **a decision to refuse residence with an order to leave the territory** is made. In this case, you are supposed to go to the responsible member state voluntarily.

If Belgium turns out to be responsible for processing your application, the IO will transfer your file - possibly after an additional hearing - to the CGRS, which will assess the content of your application.

6.2 CAN I BE FORCIBLY TRANSFERRED TO THE RESPONSIBLE MEMBER STATE?

Yes, this is possible in certain circumstances.

In this case, you may be detained in a well-defined place (closed centre), so that the transfer to the responsible Member State can take place.

7. Will the Immigration Office hear me?

Each applicant for international protection is heard by the IO as soon as possible after the application is lodged. The hearing takes place the day the application is lodged or as soon as possible after the lodging of the application. In the latter case, you will be invited to present yourself again at the IO at a later date.



Please note that if you are unable to be present on the scheduled date, you must notify the IO as soon as possible. However, the reasons you give must be well-founded. For example, in case of illness you must submit a medical certificate.

If you have not presented yourself at the Immigration Office within a period of 15 days - after the date of the convocation -, the assumption will be made that you are no longer interested in continuing your procedure. Failure to present yourself at the Immigration Office within this period will also be considered as a renunciation of your application for international protection in Belgium. In this case, the Immigration Office may decide to issue you with an order to leave the territory.

7.1 WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE IO EMPLOYEE AND THE INTERPRETER?

At the start of the hearing, the employee conducting the hearing will explain their role, as well as the role of the interpreter.

If you requested the assistance of an interpreter when making your application, the interpreter will be present throughout the hearing.

The interpreter's role is limited solely to the accurate translation of the conversation you have with the IO's employee. The interpreter cannot personally intervene in your file or give an opinion on your story. Moreover,

the interpreter cannot influence the decision. The interpreter must remain objective and neutral at all times and respect professional confidentiality.

If there should be any problems in communication with the interpreter at the start of the hearing or during the hearing (e.g. that you do not understand the interpreter properly), you should report this immediately.

If you prefer a male/female employee/interpreter for personal reasons linked to your flight motives, you should request this as soon as possible. The authorities will take this into account as much as possible.

The employee who will conduct the hearing will also inform you in advance about the finality of the hearing, how the hearing will proceed and what is expected of you.

7.2 WHAT IS THE FINALITY OF THE HEARING?

The type of hearing depends on your personal situation. There are several options:



Dublin hearing

If there are indications that Belgium may not be responsible to process the application, a Dublin hearing will take place.

The employee conducting the hearing will initially collect information on identity, marital status, family composition, travel route to Belgium, and so on.

In addition, the necessary information needed to investigate which Member State might be responsible for processing the application will be collected.



Hearing for a first application

For first-time applications where there are no indications that another Member State is responsible for processing the application, the employee conducting the interview

will initially collect information on identity, marital status, family composition, travel route to Belgium and so on.

In addition, the employee will go through a CGRS questionnaire (*which briefly discusses the flight motives*) and take note of the answers.



Hearing for a subsequent application

If a procedure for international protection has previously been concluded in Belgium, the employee conducting the hearing will not inquire about the initial flight motives again, but rather about the “new elements” and the reason why these elements could not be brought initially during the previous procedure(s). In doing so, it will be required to demonstrate why these new elements would ensure eligibility to obtain international protection status.

7.3 ENDING OF THE HEARING

At the end of the hearing, your statements will be read out again (*if necessary with the help of an interpreter*). At that point, you will still have the opportunity to correct, modify or clarify certain elements. You will then be asked to sign the hearing report. This way, you indicate that you agree with its content.

However, if you refuse to sign for any reason, the employee will note this in the hearing report. The employee will also take note of the reason why you do not want to sign.

7.4 DUTY OF COOPERATION

The employee conducting the hearing will remind you of your duty of cooperation at the beginning of the hearing. As an applicant, you have a **duty to** tell the truth at all times and **cooperate** with the authorities to the best of your ability. It is also essential to present all documents that can attest your identity and origin (*including your nationality*), travel route and flight motives as soon as possible. You should therefore submit all documents in your possession (*preferably original documents*) to the

Immigration Office as soon as possible. You must also make the necessary efforts to obtain supporting documents, for example through relatives or other people in your country of origin or in other countries, which can help you with this. Lack of cooperation, making false statements or trying to deceive the authorities may negatively affect the assessment of your application.

7.5 HOW WILL THE HEARING BE ORGANISED?

Normally, the hearing will take place in person at the Immigration Office, with the IO's employee, the applicant and, if necessary, the interpreter being present and having a conversation in person.

However, the IO may decide to organise a remote hearing if a hearing in physical presence proves to be difficult or impossible. In this case, videoconferencing technology can be used to establish a conversation between the parties involved (*who, in that case, are at separate locations*) via a secure and encrypted connection.

The IO will always ensure that the hearing can take place in a confidential manner, in particular in a separate locked room, without the presence of third parties, so that appropriate confidentiality can be guaranteed, and this regardless of whether the hearing takes place in person or remotely. Under no circumstances will audio or audio-visual recordings of the hearing be made.

If you are of the opinion that it is not appropriate to organise a remote hearing in your specific situation, you should mention this when registering your application and explain why this would not be appropriate in your personal situation. An employee of the Immigration Office will take note of your arguments and will add them to your administrative file. The Immigration Office will then investigate whether these objections are well-founded. The IO will take into account at all times any special procedural needs you may have.

However, if the Immigration Office decides that your arguments are not well-founded, this will be explained to you orally. If necessary, the Immigration Office will add the reasons for organising a remote hearing to your administrative file.

You will be informed well in advance that a remote hearing will be organised. You will also be informed about the practical arrangements and the organisation of the hearing. When registering your application, you will always be informed in detail about the modalities in the event of a remote hearing and given the opportunity to raise objections.



More information about the hearing can be found on the Immigration Office's website:

<https://tinyurl.com/DPIAuditionENG>



8. Which documents will be issued?

8.1 DURING THE PROCEDURE

After lodging your application, you must report to the commune of your main residence within 8 working days, in possession of your Annex 26/26quinquies.

If you have lodged a **first application** for international protection, you will receive an annex 26 from the Immigration Office. Based on this document, the commune of your main place of residence will provide you with an **attestation of immatriculation**.

If you have lodged a **subsequent application** for international protection, you will receive an annex 26quinquies. This document will be extended by the IO until the CGRS has made a decision on your application.

However, you can only claim an **attestation of immatriculation** if the CGRS declares your application admissible. If they do, your annex 26quinquies will no longer be extended, but you can obtain an attestation of immatriculation at the commune of your main residence.

8.2 AFTER GRANTING REFUGEE STATUS

If the CGRS or the CALL grants you refugee status, you will receive a refugee attestation. You must present yourself with this attestation at the commune of your main place of residence. They will register you in the Aliens Register on the basis of this attestation and issue an A-card (*limited residence*), valid for five years.

After 5 years, counting from the lodging of the application, you are eligible for unlimited residence. You should then submit an application to the commune of your main place of residence to obtain a B card. This application will be examined by the Immigration Office.

8.3 AFTER GRANTING SUBSIDIARY PROTECTION STATUS

If the CGRS or the CALL grants you subsidiary protection status, you must present yourself with the decision of the CGRS or the CALL at the commune of your main place of residence, which will register you in the Aliens Register on the basis of this decision. They will also issue an A-card (*limited residence*), valid for 1 year. The A-card can be extended twice by the commune for 2 years, without prior instruction from the Immigration Office. The application to extend the A-card must be submitted to the commune of the main place of residence 30 to 45 days before the end of the card's validity.

After 5 years, counting from the lodging of the application, you are eligible for unlimited residence. You should then submit an application to the commune of your main place of residence to obtain a B card. This application will be examined by the Immigration Office.

8.4 AFTER REJECTION OF THE APPLICATION FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

As soon as a final decision is made on the application, an **order to leave the territory (OLT)** will be issued by the Immigration Office and the commune will withdraw the attestation of immatriculation (if applicable).

An OLT can be delivered if:

- The period for appeal against the CGRS' decision has expired and no appeal was lodged
- The CALL took a negative decision on the appeal

Starting from a second subsequent application (so, in other words, starting from a third application), an OLT can be taken immediately after a decision of inadmissibility by the CGRS, if the appeal is non-suspensive.

The OLT indicates the time limit within which you must leave the territory of Belgium.

If you have previously been the subject of an OLT to which you did not comply, the Immigration Office may decide not to issue a new OLT, but to **reactivate the previous OLT**. In this case, an additional period may be granted to leave the territory.

The OLT or reactivation will be notified directly at the elected place of residence.

9. Can I have my identity details changed?

If, during the procedure, you notice that your personal details are incorrect, you can ask the Immigration Office to rectify this. This can be done during the first personal hearing, during which the employee will go over your personal details with you and ask whether they are correct. If necessary, these details can be changed.

However, if you wish to change your details later on in the procedure or in a subsequent procedure, this will only be possible upon presentation of a valid international passport.

10. I am a minor and unaccompanied. What do I have to do?

If you are under 18 and not accompanied by a parent or a person designated in your country of origin to exercise parental authority, you will be registered as an unaccompanied minor. This means that a specialized IO employee will complete a form with you, which will then be sent to the Guardianship Service.

The Guardianship Service is the instance in Belgium that will identify you and assign you a guardian if necessary.



More information on the competences of the Guardianship Service can be found on the website :

<https://tinyurl.com/dpiTutellesFR>



If you have already been living in Belgium for some time, it is possible that another organisation has already registered you with the Guardianship Service and therefore you already have a guardian.



Please note that if there should be any doubt about your age, the decision to carry out a medical examination can be made. You can file an appeal against the decision - made on the basis of the result of the examination - with the Council of State.

Your guardian will accompany you throughout your procedure. This means that they will receive all convocations, requests for information and decisions concerning your case. It is therefore necessary for the guardian to be present during the hearing at the Immigration Office. Without the presence of your guardian, the hearing cannot take place.

The hearing at the IO will be conducted by an employee specialised in hearing minors. The questions asked during the hearing are adapted to your age and maturity.

You will receive additional information when registering your application.



The “Guide for unaccompanied minors who apply for asylum in Belgium” is available in several languages on the website of the CGRS via the following link:

<https://www.cgrs.be/en/publications>



11. Can I be assisted by a lawyer during the procedure?

You can be assisted by a lawyer during the procedure for international protection. You will have to cover the costs of such assistance yourself.

However, if you do not have sufficient financial resources to afford the services of a lawyer, you can apply for a pro bono lawyer at any time. A pro bono lawyer is a lawyer you either choose yourself or are appointed ex officio. You do not have to pay the pro bono lawyer yourself. However, to do so, you must prove that you are an applicant for international protection, for example by referring to your Annex 26 or Annex 26quinquies.

You can also obtain Legal Aid as an applicant for international protection. This will help reduce procedural costs.

There are also organizations that group associations specialised in providing assistance to foreigners.

The UNHCR, for example, is committed to ensuring the rights and well-being of refugees.

Please note that if it turns out that you do have the necessary financial means/income, you will have to repay the advantage you received through the pro bono right partially or even completely.



More information on the work of the UNHCR can be found on its website:

<https://www.unhcr.org/be>



12. What if I want to return to my country of origin?

If you are thinking of returning to your country of origin during your procedure or after your procedure, you can always make use of the voluntary return programme provided by Fedasil.



For more information, visit the following website:

<https://www.voluntaryreturn.be/>



If you do not (or no longer) have the necessary identity documents to return to your country of origin, you should submit a request to the embassy of your country of origin that can reacquire a passport or a laissez-passer.



A list of embassies with their details is available on the following website under the heading “embassies and consulates”:

<http://diplomatie.belgium.be>



If you wish to return to your country of origin immediately, you can also contact the Voluntary Return cell of the Immigration Office via the following e-mail address:

return@ibz.fgov.be

13. Can I be detained during the procedure?

The Aliens Act provides that in certain cases the Immigration Office may decide to detain you in a well-defined place (*closed centre*).

An applicant detained in a closed centre has the possibility to contest the detention before the Council Chamber of the Court of First Instance (*correctional section*) on a monthly basis, by submitting a request for release. This request must be drafted according to specific legal rules.

14. What does the Immigration Office do with my personal data?

The Immigration Office will ensure that your data, processed during the procedure, are protected and in full compliance with the GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation).

You can get more information about the GDPR or the data protection policy of the IO [HERE](#) or by scanning the following QR code:



<https://dofi.ibz.be/en/about-us/processing-personal-data/transparency-information-data-subject/transparency-international>

15. Useful addresses



Immigration Office (IO)

Pacheco
Boulevard Pacheco, 44
1000 Brussels

Infodesk
T +32 2 488 80 00

infodesk@dofi.fgov.be
www.dofi.fgov.be
www.ibz.fgov.be



The Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (CGRS)

Eurostation
Rue Ernest Blerot 39
1070 Brussels

T + 32 2 205 51 11

cgra.info@ibz.fgov.be
www.cgra.be



Council for Alien Law Litigation (CALL)

Laurentide
Rue Gaucheret 92-94
1030 Brussels

T + 32 2 791 60 00

info.rvv-cce@ibz.fgov.be
www.rvv-cce.be



Council of State (CoS)

Rue de la Science 33
1040 Brussels

T + 32 2 234 96 11

info@raadvst-consetat.be
www.raadvst-consetat.be



Fedasil

Rue des Chartreux 21
1000 Brussels

T + 32 2 213 44 11

info@fedasil.be
<https://www.fedasil.be/>



Guardianship Service

Waterloo avenue 115
1000 Brussels

T + 32 78 15 43 24

tutelles@just.fgov.be
<https://justitie.belgium.be/>



United Nations High Commissioner (UNHCR Belgium)

Avenue Louise 283
1050 Brussels

T + 32 2 627 59 99

belbr@unhcr.org
<https://www.unhcr.org/be>

Editeur responsable : Freddy Roosemont - Boulevard Pacheco 44, 1000 Bruxelles - BCE 0308.356.862

- Ne pas jeter sur la voie publique -