



## **European Migration Network (EMN)**

<p><b>Annual Report on Migration and International Protection Statistics for Belgium Reference Years 2009 and 2010</b></p>
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**Belgian National Contact Point of the EMN**

**July 2011**

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# 1 | INTRODUCTION

This paper describes administrative data gathered by Belgian authorities to report to Eurostat on asylum and migration in Belgium. The data cover 2009, and in most cases also 2010. The statistics used to draft the report were generated by the EUROSTAT tool. The data not available through Eurostat were delivered by the Belgian Immigration Office.

This report has been written on the demand of the Belgian Contact point of the European Migration Network (EMN). This report covers 2009 and 2010, however, some data are lacking for 2010. Where judged necessary, the more historical perspective of some data is included by completing time-lines or making reference to the figures of the previous report

Since similar reports will be produced for every member states of the European Union (EU), based on comparable data, this report should facilitate comparisons migratory trends on European level, as well as in international context.

This report focuses primarily on “third-country nationals”, the terminology used to indicate citizens not belonging to one of the 27 EU member states. Sometimes, however; also data on EU citizens are provided, given the magnitude and the intensity of Intra-European migration in Belgium.

Further background information, on the methodology as well as on the statistical data themselves can be found in previous EMN Statistical Reports <http://www.emnbelgium.be/publication-type/emn-reports-studies/annual-statistical-reports> and in the Belgian Country Report of the Prominstat project ([www.prominstat.eu](http://www.prominstat.eu)).

**The EMN has been established via Council Decision 2008/381/EC and is financially supported by the European Union**

This report has been demanded by the Belgian National Contact Point (BE NCP) of the European Migration Network. The BE NCP is a mixed contact point composed of experts of: the Immigration Office (policy support unit), the migration observatory of the Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism and the Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (international unit).

The EMN has the objective to meet the information needs of Community institutions and of Member States' authorities and institutions by providing up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and asylum, with a view to supporting policymaking in the European Union in these areas. The EMN also serves to provide the general public with such information.

The EMN has several activities. Firstly, the EMN responds to information needs through specific Reports, Studies and Ad-Hoc Queries. Secondly, the EMN collects and documents information in a comparative manner. Thirdly, the EMN has the task of establishing a multi-level network to aid its activities. On the European level, EMN NCPs meet regularly, network and cooperate with other European level institutions and organisations. At national level, each EMN NCP aims to develop a network involving partners within their Member State with expertise in migration and asylum from a wide range of stakeholders in order to have a cross-section of views and information, e.g. from Member State governments, the (academic) research community, and NGOs.

Further information, including the EMN's various outputs, is available from:  
**[www.emnbelgium.be](http://www.emnbelgium.be)**

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## 2 | METHODOLOGY

The data presented in this report are based on data provided by the Belgian Immigration Office and on Belgian country-data directly derived from the Eurostat database <http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/portal/page/portal/population/data/database>

Concerning international migration statistics, the calculation of immigration and emigration was modified in 2008 (for 2007 data) by Statistics Belgium. At first, it results in a symmetrical increase of immigration and emigration (without change of the migratory balance). In addition, new data were modified to correctly take into account recognised refugees. Previously, they were excluded from flow data and included in the “unknown” or “other” citizenship category in stock data. From now on, they appear in flow data and their citizenship is correctly assigned. For the report, all past data were recalculated using this new definition in order to erase the impact of the change of definition.

Concerning asylum (applications and negative decisions), statistics were produced on the basis of a subset of the national register that is called the «waiting register». This is a database that contains information related to the asylum procedure and asylum seekers. National figures in Belgium may still differ from figures based on a European definition. Figures on asylum seeker e.g., can still vary if the calculation basis differs. This can be caused by the fact that different databases of different services count in another way. Sometimes individuals are counted, but in most cases the “files” (without the accompanied children) are counted. The presented 2009 and 2010 figures, are based on individuals, not on files.

Registration for the reason of entry, has started only recently in the National Register. The reported data on reason of entry, are derived from this dataset. Due to the limitations of this recently established system however, the FPS Foreign Affairs’ visa database and the Immigration Department’s data remain important complementary sources for 2009 data. On the opposite, for 2010, data are completely produced on the basis of the reason of entry registered in the National Register.

The data on apprehensions and returns come from the Immigration Department; for data on refusals the sources are the Immigration Department and the Federal Police. Statistics produced in accordance with EU common definitions differ from data usually available at national level. Actually, they exclude EU-citizens. In addition, in data provided to Eurostat, each person should be counted only once, even if he or she was ordered to leave (or refused, apprehended, returned) several times in the same reference year. This way of counting stresses on the number of individuals involved rather than on the number of cases dealt with, and thus the case load of the departments in charge.

## 3 | LEGAL IMMIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

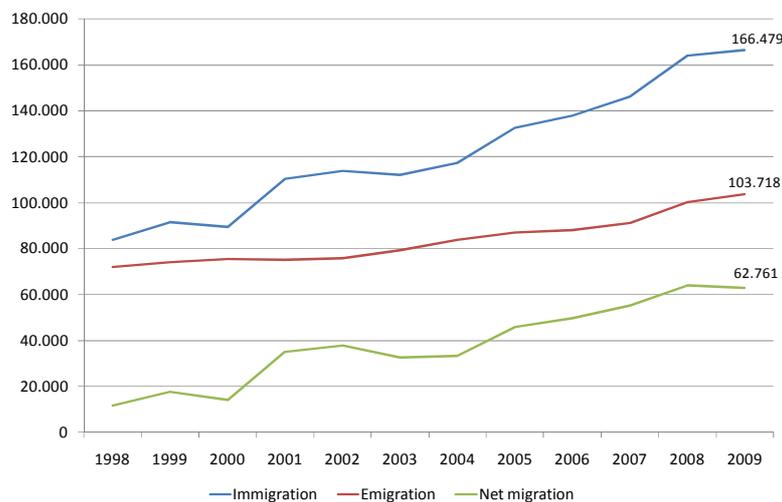
### 3.1 Int. Migration, Usually Resident Pop., Acquisition of Citizenship (Article 3)

#### 3.1.1 International Migration Flows

This section reports on the immigration and emigration data of 2008 and 2009. In 2008, 164 152 entries were recorded. The number grew slightly (1,4%) to 166 479 arrivals in 2009 of which 39 602 were from Belgians, 66.379 from (other) EU-27 citizens and 60.226 from third country nationals. Immigration figures increased 12,1% between 2007 and 2008 and 1.4% between 2008 and 2009. In 2008 there was also a higher emigration compared to 2007 (10,1%). Between 2008 and 2009 there was a 3,4% growth of emigration.

In 2007, the numbers of immigrants and emigrants were already the highest observed in Belgian history. The number of immigrants keeps growing on a faster path than the number of emigrants, so the net migration is higher than even. The migration balance was estimated to be 55.357 in 2007, 63.877 in 2008 and 62.761 in 2009. In 2008 an increase of 15,4% of the migration balance could be witnessed. In 2009, compared to the year before, the migration balance dropped with -1,7% (still representing a net influx of 62.761 people).

Figure 3.1 Immigration, emigration and net migration in Belgium (1998-2009)

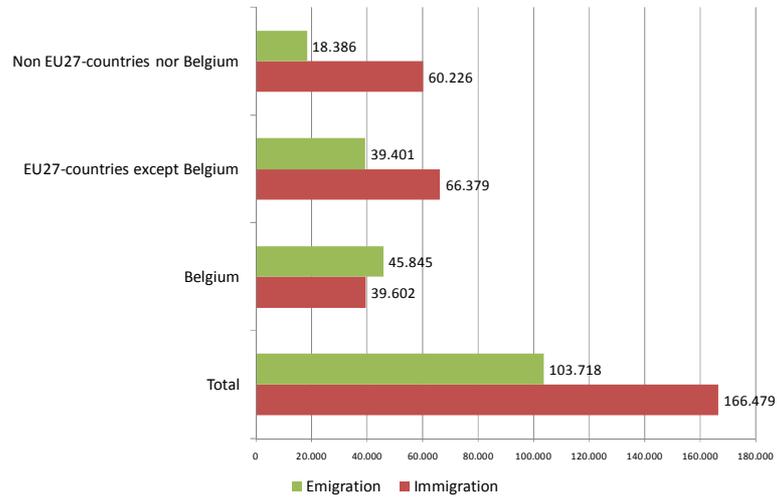


Source: Statistics Belgium and Eurostat

Since 2009, there is a disaggregation by broad groups of citizenship available. It makes a distinction between citizens from the declaring country (in this case Belgium), from foreign

countries in general, from the 27 EU states (except the declaring stat), and from non EU27-countries (excluding also the declaring country).

**Figure 3.2 Emigration and immigration by group of citizen**



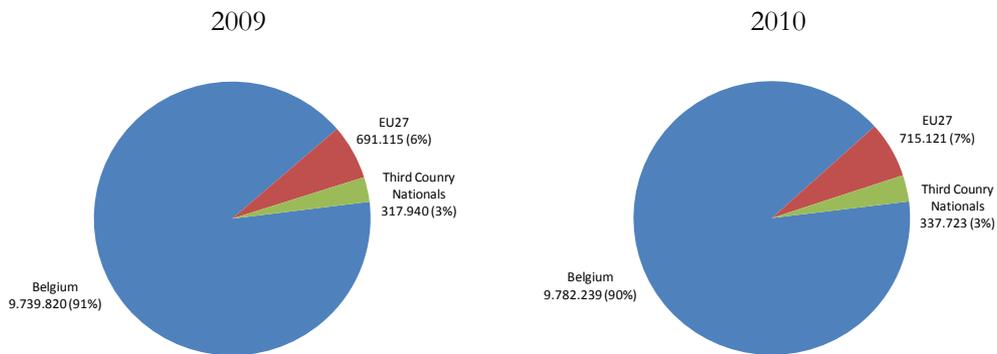
Source: Statistics Belgium and Eurostat

In general, for every 100 people that enter the country, 62 others leave it again. For Belgian citizens is the picture slightly different. For every 100 returning Belgians, 116 leave the country. Apparently, the circulation is higher amongst European migrants. From every 100 EU-27 citizens that enter the country, 59 leave the country, whereas for every 100 third country national that enters, only 31 return.

### 3.1.2 Usual Residence

Almost one out of ten of all Belgian residents has no Belgian citizenship in 2009 (9,4%) and 2010 (9,7%). The Belgian population grew between 2009 and 2010 from 10.748.875 to 10.835.083. This means a growth from respectively 82.009 or 0,7% in 2009 and 86.208 or 0,8% in 2010. The share of population growth in general accounted for by migrants is 46% in 2009 and 51% in 2010. A notable evolution is the rising share of third country nationals. In 2009 they accounted for 7% of the population growth in 2010 for 23%.

**Figure 3.3 Residence in Belgium by broad category of citizenship 2009 and 2010**

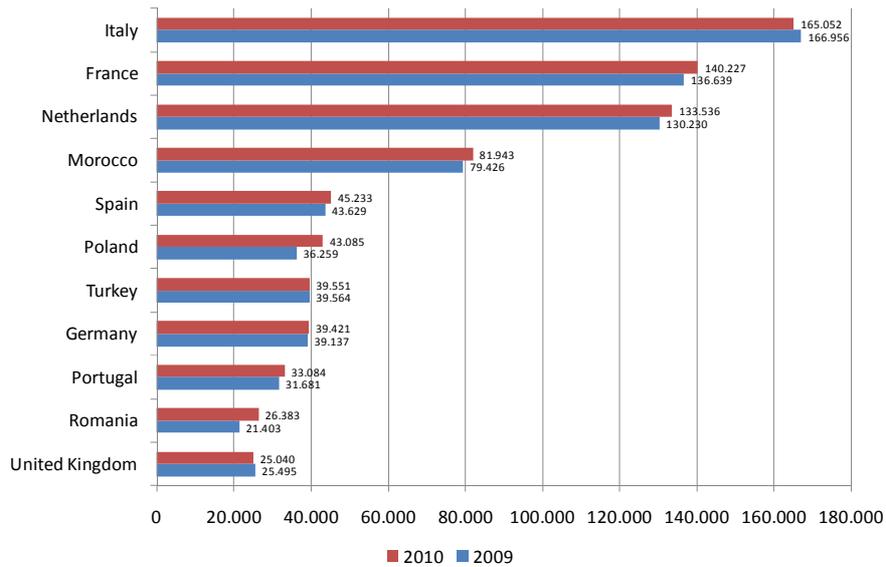


Source: Statistics Belgium and Eurostat

As stated higher, the largest part of the foreign population comes from another European country. However, one should be aware that acquiring Belgian citizenship is mainly done by non-EU residents (see 3.1.3 of this report).

The following graph shows clearly how the number of citizens from some new member states grew spectacularly between 2009 and 2010, particularly the Poles and the Romanians. Compared to 2009, the Poles overtook the Turkish in absolute numbers in 2010 and became the sixth largest population of foreigners. The Romanians did the same with the British and jumped to the 10<sup>th</sup> place.

**Figure 3.4 11 most common nationalities in 2009 and 2010**



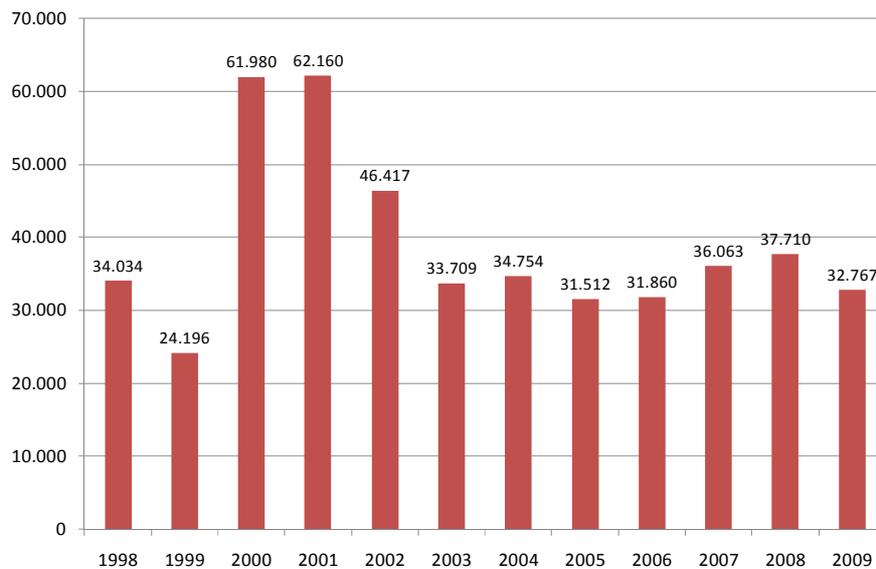
Source: Statistics Belgium and Eurostat

The largest concentrations of third country nationals in Belgium are formed by citizens from Morocco, Turkey, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Russia, the United States, Algeria, China, Serbia (and Montenegro), Cameroon and India. The group of people holding a Moroccan citizenship is by and large the tallest group of third country nationals. The proportion of this group is more or less the same as the sum of the other countries ranking on place 2 to 5.

### 3.1.3 Acquisition of citizenship

In 2008, the number of people acquiring a Belgian nationality was on its highest since 2002. This figure dropped 13% in 2009 from 37 710 to 32 767.

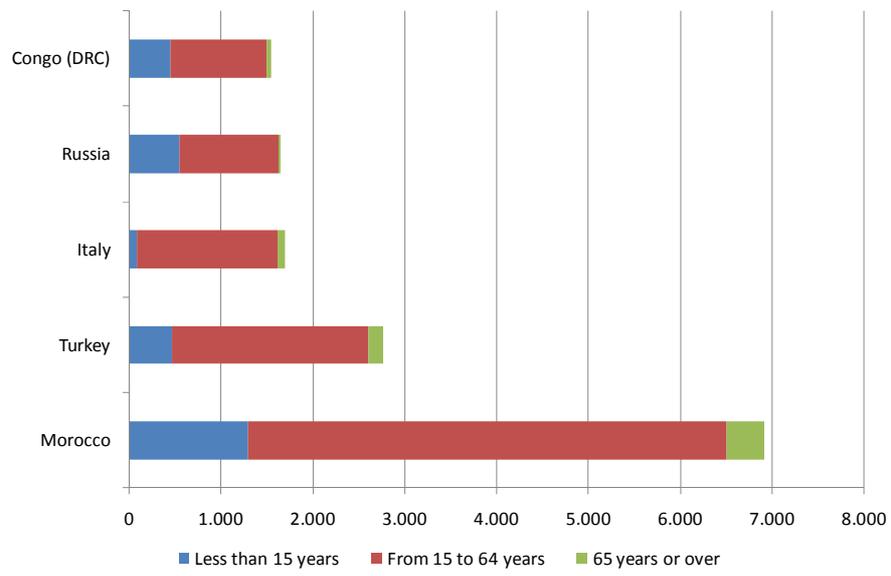
**Figure 3.5 Evolution of the number of foreigners acquiring Belgian citizenship 1989-2009**



Source Statistics Belgium and Eurostat

Acquiring Belgian citizenship is mainly done by non-EU residents. More than eight out of ten (81,1%) of all people that acquired a Belgian nationality in 2009, were former residents of non-EU 27 countries. Only 16,8% of the acquisitions were asked for by EU citizens. The Moroccans were the single largest group for acquisition of citizenship, 21% of all acquisitions came from one citizenship: the Moroccan. The second most acquisitions were for Turkish citizens (8,4%) followed by Italians (5,2%), Russians (5,0%) and Congolese (4,7%). The profile of the people acquiring citizenship differs. Between a quarter and a third of all acquisitions of respectively the Congolese and the Russians were meant for children under the age of 15. Compared to the average, significantly more senior Moroccans ask for the Belgian nationality. 65% of the population aged 65 and more that acquired the Belgian nationality was of Moroccan descent. Also the Turkish elderly people acquired Belgian nationality twice as much as the average for the Turks. As contrast, only 1,5% of all naturalized Russians was older than 65.

**Figure 3.6 Acquisition of citizenship: age distribution of top five countries of origin**



Source: Statistics Belgium and Eurostat

## **3.2 Residence Permits and Residence of Third-Country Nationals (Article 6)**

### **3.2.1 Residence Permits issued**

#### **i) First Residence permits**

The obligation to produce statistics on residence permits by reason of stay was introduced by Regulation 862/2007. A new data collection had to be introduced at national level in order to fulfil this obligation. The data gathering started in 2008.

In 2009, compared to 2008 there was a substantial rise in the number of first permits issued: the number rose with 27.6% from 46 201 in 2008 to 58 939 in 2009.

Family reunification remains the most important reason to obtain a residence permit for Third Country Nationals (TCN) in 2009. Almost half (49%) of the permits issued, were granted for family reasons (28.523). Not only the number, but also the share of this category rose compared to the year before. The category “other reasons”, which represents mainly residence permits delivered for humanitarian reasons also grew (from 12 041 or about 26% to 17 803 or 30%). The number of permits issued for remunerated activities dropped from 7.097 (15%) in 2008 to 5.391 (9%). The share of permits issued for educational reasons shrank, though the number increased slightly from 6.743 (15%) in 2008 to 7.222 (12%) in 2009.

As it appears in the table below the reason for granting the residence permit strongly depends on the nationality of the person. Morocco and Turkey were two most important non-EU countries of origin for those who were granted a residence permit in 2009. Moroccans and Turks are the two largest groups of non EU-immigrant communities in Belgium. For these two countries family reasons were obviously the main reason to obtain the permit (respectively 86% and 69% for each group). The Moroccans obtain 28% of all permits issued in 2009 for family reasons.

The permits issued to former residents from countries like the Russian Federation, Congo DR or Armenia come under the category “other reasons” (respectively 64%, 49% and 87% of the permits issued for each group). These high figures for these groups can be explained by the fact that the previous years, many citizens of these countries applied for asylum in Belgium. Often, former asylum seekers are granted a residence permits because of a so called “international protection status” (for a refugee), or for humanitarian reasons. Both reasons are put in the category “other reasons”. A noteworthy number of the residents permits that are issued in the sub-category of humanitarian reasons (= other reasons) are granted based on the reason “long duration of the asylum procedure”.

Nationals from India and to a (much) lesser extend the USA stand out with respect to the permits for employment purposes. Respectively 58% of the Indians and 30% of the Americans receive a permit for “remunerated activities”. The Indians alone received more than a quarter of those permits issued in 2009.

Permits for educational reasons represent 12% of all permits issued in 2009. Around one third of all issued permits were for educational reasons, for what concerns the nationals from US, Cameroon and China.

**Table 3.1 First residence permits, by main countries of citizenship and reason (absolute numbers)**

	Total	Family reasons	Education reasons	Remuner. activities reasons	Other reasons
Total first permits	58.939	28.523	7.222	5.391	17.803
Top 10 third countries (overall total)					
Morocco	9.293	7.972	581	308	432
Turkey	3.650	2.526	427	208	489
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2.869	1.143	297	23	1.406
Russia	2.510	615	154	128	1.613
India	2.317	671	230	1.354	62
United States	1.844	664	619	555	6
China (including Hong Kong)	1.726	660	526	341	199
Cameroon	1.708	670	569	80	389
Armenia	1.489	167	13	15	1.294
Algeria	1.346	854	148	65	279

Source: Immigration Office and Eurostat

**Table 3.2 First residence permits, by main countries of citizenship and reason (as percentage for each nationality)**

REASON	Total	Family reasons	Education reasons	Remuner. activities reasons	Other reasons
Total	58.939	48	12	9	30
Morocco	9.293	86	6	3	5
Turkey	3.650	69	12	6	13
Congo (DRC)	2.869	40	10	1	49
Russia	2.510	25	6	5	64
India	2.317	29	10	58	3
United States	1.844	36	34	30	0
China (including Hong Kong)	1.726	38	30	20	12
Cameroon	1.708	39	33	5	23
Armenia	1.489	11	1	1	87

Source: Immigration Office and Eurostat

## ii) Changing immigration status or reason for stay

Although the quality and coverage of these data still needs improvements, we can make some provisional conclusions. The number of people changing status in 2009 more than doubles compared to 2008. 568 persons changed their immigration status. Two groups stand out: the ones that changed their reason from “education” to “remunerated activities” (56,7% of the overall group) and those who changed from “other” to “remunerated activities”.

## iii) Valid permits at the end of 2009

The number of valid permits (see table below) gives a good indication of the total number of non-EU nationals residing in Belgium at the end of 2009. On a total of 364.939 valid permits at the end of 2009, 309.540 (or about 85% of the total) were permits with a length of validity of 12 months and over. China and Japan, and to a lesser extend Russia and Congo (DRC) are the countries with an overrepresentation in the group of people holding a permit valid for a period from 6 to 11 months. The Russians and the Serbians have, compared to 2008, significantly increased their share of permits from over 12 months.

**Table 3.3 All valid residence permits, by main countries of citizenship and duration on 31 December 2009**

	Total valid residence permits	Total by duration		
		3-5 months	6-11 months	12 months and over
Total	364.939	14.546	40.853	309.540
<b>Top 10 third countries (overall total)</b>				
Morocco	80.197	1.049	5.527	73.621
Turkey	40.913	458	2.270	38.185
Democratic Republic of the Congo	20.794	828	2.765	17.201
United States	17.802	65	1.536	16.201
Russia	13.563	1.302	1.691	10.570
Serbia	9.341	583	1.027	7.731
Algeria	9.015	245	817	7.953
Unknown	8.138	265	584	7.289
China (including Hong Kong)	7.811	271	1.447	6.093
Japan	7.473	43	1.298	6.132

Source: Immigration Office and Eurostat

### 3.2.2 Long-term residents

At the end of 2009; the largest group in the category “long-term residents” consists – just like the year before- out of nationals from Morocco (472 or almost 26%). The countries figuring in the top of this list are the – in Belgium - so called ‘traditional’ countries of origin like Morocco, Turkey and Congo (DR). The magnitude is different, but also some less

traditional countries of emigration like China, Cameroon and Brazil figure on the list of top 10 countries.

**Table 3.4** Number of long-term third-country national residents, by main countries of citizenship

<b>Third-country nationals</b>	
Total	1 774
Stateless	3
Unknown	30
<b>Top 10 countries of citizenship</b>	
Morocco	472
Turkey	168
Congo, the Democratic Republic of the	153
United States	93
China (including Hong Kong)	48
Algeria	44
Cameroon	37
Canada	37
Switzerland	32
Brazil	32

Source: Immigration Office and Eurostat

## 4 | ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND RETURN

### 4.1 Apprehensions (Article 5.1b)

A total of 13 710 people were apprehended in Belgium in 2009. More than one out of three (34,4%) of the illegally-staying third-country nationals were citizens from Morocco (2 465) and Algeria (2.255). India (965), Afghanistan (805) and Brazil (560) complete the Top 5 countries, that account for 51,4% of all 2009 apprehensions. In 2008, almost the same amount of people (13.800) was apprehended.

The number of apprehensions can be used as a source to estimate the number of illegally residing foreign nationals, but the total number of apprehensions or the changes in the number of apprehensions can only give an indication of the number of illegally residing foreign nationals in Belgium. Illegally residing people are hard or impossible to count and the figures presented depend on the source of the data used to calculate the number of apprehensions (including records on alleged nationality). Moreover, it should be taken into account that there is a potential bias due to the close relation between the number of apprehensions and the activities or priorities of the police and immigration services. Finally, one should be sure that the apprehended population is representative of the population residing illegally in the country and be sure that there is no factor that could impact this representativeness (e.g. relation between apprehension and subsequent return, higher (or lower) probability of apprehensions for specific subgroups, etc.).

**Table 4.1 Third-country nationals apprehended / found to be illegally present, by citizenship, age group and sex (Top 10 2009)**

	Age (Years)					Sex	
	Total	0-13	14-17	18-34	35+	Male	Female
<b>TOTAL</b>	13 710	170	850	9 025	3 660	11.915	1.790
Stateless	10	0	5	5	0	5	5
Unknown	595	35	100	305	150	420	175
<b>Top 10 countries of citizenship</b>							
Morocco	2 465	10	90	1.620	745	2.225	245
Algeria	2 255	0	135	1.635	480	2.230	25
India	965	0	35	720	210	960	10
Afghanistan	805	15	215	515	55	750	55
Brazil	560	35	100	305	150	420	175
Palestine	520	5	10	370	170	390	165
Iraq	435	0	25	410	90	520	0
Tunisia	405	0	15	365	55	415	20
Turkey	300	0	5	320	80	395	10
China	270	5	0	165	130	260	40

Source: Immigration Office and Eurostat

In 2009, two out of three (65,8%) of all people apprehended were in the age group between 18 and 34 years old. In 2009, almost 87% of the total number of persons apprehended were men. This means that the share of women has risen slightly in 2009, compared to 2008, but it dropped again in 2010.

**Table 4.2 Third-country nationals apprehended / found to be illegally present, by citizenship, age group and sex (Top 10 2010)**

	Age (Years)					Sex	
	Total	0-13	14-17	18-34	35+	Male	Female
TOTAL	12.115	115	755	8.175	3065	10.695	1.415
Stateless	10	0	0	5	0	10	5
Unknown	510	20	90	270	130	350	160
<b>Top 10 countries of citizenship</b>							
Algeria	2.605	0	150	1.990	460	2.585	20
Morocco	2.180	5	90	1.475	610	1.985	195
India	560	0	20	400	145	550	10
Palestinian territory	510	0	30	420	65	505	5
Iraq	455	0	30	360	70	440	20
Brazil	415	5	5	285	120	280	135
Tunisia	410	0	5	315	90	405	5
Afghanistan	350	15	105	195	40	325	25
Iran	265	5	25	190	45	250	15
Turkey	250	0	5	140	100	220	25

Source: Immigration Office and Eurostat

## 4.2 Returns (Article 7)

### 4.2.1 Obligation to leave the territory

In 2009 about 27 980 third-country nationals found to be illegally present in Belgium were ordered to leave the territory and 4 060 actually returned following an order to leave. The figures of 2010 are comparable: 28 196 were ordered to leave and 4 413 returned.

**Table 4.3 Third-country nationals ordered to leave and returned following an order to leave (2009)**

Year	Third country nationals ordered to leave		Third country nationals returned following an order to leave	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
Total	27 980	28 196	3 965	4 413
Stateless	60	18	0	
Unknown	390	326	0	4

Source: Eurostat

The most important countries of origin for third country nationals ordered to leave the territory in 2009 were: Morocco (4 075), Algeria (4 015), India (1 675), Afghanistan (1 545), Iraq (1 185), Russian Federation (975), Palestine (820), Brazil (815), Congo (DRC) (775) and Iran (755).

In the 2010 ranking, mostly the same countries are figuring in the top 10: Morocco (4 616), Algeria (4 456), Russian Federation (1 149), Iraq (1 036), India (869), Kosovo (867), Congo (DRC) (847), Serbia (815), Afghanistan (793), and Palestine (784).

**Table 4.4 Third-country nationals ordered to leave, by country of citizenship - Annual data (rounded) (2009)**

Top 10 third countries	Third country nationals ordered to leave
Morocco	4 075
Algeria	4 015
India	1 675
Afghanistan	1 545
Iraq	1 185
Russian Federation	975
Palestine	820
Brazil	815
Congo, the Democratic Republic of the	775
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	755
Other	11 345
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27 980</b>

Source: Immigration Office and Eurostat

**Table 4.5 Third-country nationals ordered to leave, by country of citizenship - Annual data (rounded) (2010)**

Top 10 third countries	Third country nationals ordered to leave	Third country nationals returned following an order to leave
Morocco	4 616	324
Algeria	4 456	71
Russian Federation	1 149	202
Iraq	1 036	98
India	869	77
Kosovo	867	311
Congo (DRC)	847	48
Serbia	815	126
Afghanistan	793	21
Palestinian Territory, Occupied	784	0
Others	11 964	3 135
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28 196</b>	<b>4 413</b>

Source: Immigration Office and Eurostat

#### 4.2.2 In fact left the territory

The top 3 of countries of origin whose citizens returned most in 2009 consists out of Brazil (1265), Ukraine (345) and Morocco (265). Although the total number of foreign nationals ordered to leave compared to 2008 decreased (minus 4700 or 14%), the number of returned third country nationals in 2009 (4060) was slightly higher compared to 2008 (3965).

**Table 4.6 Third country nationals returned following an order to leave - Annual data (rounded) (2009)**

Top 10 third countries	Third country nationals returned following an order to leave
Brazil	1 265
Ukraine	345
Morocco	265
Mongolia	170
Russian Federation	155
Albania	135
Kosovo (under United Nations Security Council Regulation 1244)	125
Moldova, Republic of	85
Turkey	85
Armenia	85
Other	1 345
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4 060</b>

Source: Immigration Office and Eurostat

In 2010 Brazil heads the list again (1 150), followed by Ukraine (363), Morocco (324), Kosovo (311), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (208), the Russian Federation (202), Armenia (138), Georgia (137), Serbia (126) and Albania (108).

**Table 4.7 Third country nationals returned following an order to leave - Annual data (rounded) (2010)**

Top 10 third countries	Third country nationals returned following an order to leave	Third country nationals ordered to leave
Brazil	1 150	641
Ukraine	363	266
Morocco	324	4 616
Kosovo	311	867
FYR Macedonia	208	478
Russian Federation	202	1 149
Armenia	138	626
Georgia	137	352
Serbia	126	815
Albania	108	337
Others	1 346	18 049
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4 413</b>	<b>28 196</b>

Source: Immigration Office and Eurostat

## 5 | BORDER CONTROL

### 5.1 Refusals (Article 5.1a)

In 2009 2055 foreign nationals were refused entry at Belgium's outer borders. The bulk of them 1990 were refused at the air border. These are significantly higher than the statistics of the previous years. The strong increase of the 2009 figures is due to the increase of the number of (air border) refusals.

**Table 5.1 Table general view on refusals of entry 2003 – 2009**

Year	Air border	Sea border	Land border	Total
2003	1 254	225	1 320	2 799
2004	1 261	150	251*	1 662
2005	1 059	128	0	1 187
2006	1 249	116	0	1 365
2007	1 022	90	0	1 112
2008	1 065	105	0	1 170
2009	1 995	60	0	2 055
2010	1 770	85	0	1 855

\* Schengen entry control at the Eurostat border at Brussels South ceased on 1 April 2004. Border control has since been carried out by border inspectors from UK territory.

Source: Immigration Office, Federal Police and Eurostat

The top 3 of grounds for refusal in 2009 were: purpose and conditions of stay not justified (590); no valid visa or residence permit (450) and no valid travel document(s) (365).

**Table 5.2 Third country nationals refused entry, by ground and external border (2009)**

Ground for refusal	Type of border			
	Total persons refused entry	Refused at the land border	Refused at the sea border	Refused at the air border
<b>TOTAL</b>	2 055		60	1 990
No valid travel document(s)	365		30	335
False travel document	195		0	195
No valid visa or residence permit	450		0	450
False visa or residence permit	65		0	65
Purpose and conditions of stay not justified	590		0	590
Person already stayed 3 months in a 6-months period	30		0	30
No sufficient means of subsistence	275		5	265
An alert has been issued	75		25	50
Person considered to be a public threat	5		0	5

Source: Immigration Office, Federal Police and Eurostat

The top 5 of the nationalities that were refused entry in 2009 constitutes out of Congo (230), Turkey (205), Morocco (190), Sri Lanka (140) and Senegal (115). Apart from Sri Lanka, all the other nationalities also figured in the 2007 and the 2008 Top 5.

**Table 5.3 Top 10 countries of citizenship of third-country nationals refused entry in 2009**

Top 10 countries of citizenship	Total	Type of border		
		Refused at the land border	Refused at the sea border	Refused at the air border
Congo, DR	230		0	230
Turkey	205		0	205
Morocco	190		5	185
Sri Lanka	140		0	140
Senegal	115		0	115
Iraq	95		0	95
Cameroon	75		5	70
Guinea	65		0	65
India	65		0	65
Angola	60		0	60

Source: Immigration Office, Federal Police and Eurostat

The top 5 of the nationalities that were refused entry in 2010 constitutes out of Morocco (235); Turkey (120), DR Congo (120), Serbia (100) and China (95). The top 3 also figured in the 2007, 2008 and 2009 Top 5.

**Table 5.4 Top 10 countries of citizenship of third-country nationals refused entry in 2010**

Top 10 countries of citizenship	Total	Type of border		
		Refused at the land border	Refused at the sea border	Refused at the air border
Morocco	235		5	225
Turkey	120		5	115
Congo (DRC)	120		0	120
Serbia	100		0	100
China	95		0	95
Iraq	95		0	95
FYR Macedonia, the	85		0	85
Angola	70		0	70
Guinea	70		5	65
Senegal	60		0	60

Source: Immigration Office, Federal Police and Eurostat

## 5.2 Relationship between refusals, apprehensions and returns

There is no obvious and direct link between citizenships of refused and apprehended third country nationals. This can be explained at first by the impact of the Schengen agreement that limits border controls to migrants coming directly to Belgium from outside the Schengen area. Due to the geographical situation of Belgium, this results in a very limited number of refusals. Secondly, third country nationals found to be illegally present might have entered legally in the country and overstayed their visas or residence permits.

For similar reasons, there is no direct link between the citizenship of foreigners who are refused entry and those who are ordered to leave the territory on the one hand; and there is no direct link between the citizenship of third-country nationals who are refused entry and those who are effectively returned.

There is also not a direct link between the citizenship of apprehended third country nationals and the citizenship of third country nationals ordered to leave the territory, but a correlation can be found. Since the people who receive an order to leave the country are residing illegally, and illegal residents can be apprehended, it is quite obvious that the countries in the top 10 of countries whose nationals receive an order to leave the territory, is quite similar to the top 10 of countries whose nationals are apprehended.

There is also no direct link between the number of returns and the number of apprehensions by citizenship, but the relation between both elements is interesting to study. A ratio of returned and apprehended third country nationals can be calculated by citizenship by dividing the number of apprehensions by the number of returns. In the case of Belgium, it would give a total (forced or assisted) return ratio of 30%. This indicator is quite stable over time, but varies between the countries of origin. This variation is an indicator by country of origin of the obstacles faced when organizing forced returns. These obstacles results in very different return rates of apprehended third country nationals. Analysis based on this indicator is however biased. Actually, although the general category “returns” includes a majority of third country nationals that were forced to return after an apprehension, it also includes an important proportion of voluntary assisted returns that do not involve necessarily a previous apprehension. In the case of Brazil, it explains why the ratio in 2009 is, just like the year before, more than 100% (225%). In case of the Brazilians, most of returns are assisted voluntary returns. In order to understand correctly the relation between returns and apprehensions, it would be necessary to be able to differentiate forced and assisted returns (as it is possible at national level). The observed differences between the rate of forced return of apprehended third country nationals would give a good indicator of the difficulties to organize forced returns and the efficiency of this part of the return policy.

Concerning the relation between orders to leave and returns, the list of the most represented citizenships in each case is quite different. Only 3 countries (Morocco, The Russian federation and Brazil) figure in both lists. Studying the relationship between both indicators is nevertheless interesting. Once again, it would be possible to calculate a “return rate of third country nationals ordered to leave” by dividing the number of returns by the number of orders to leave, although the indicator is among others biased by the fact. that data are calendar-based and the return does not necessarily occur in the same year as the order to leave. For 2009, it would give a (forced or assisted) return rate of third country nationals ordered to leave of about 14,5%, slightly higher than the 12% of 2008. Also here, there is a

huge variety between the countries involved. The 'success ratio' of the Brazilians for example is definitely more limited in case of the Russians (16%) and poor for the Moroccans (7%) and Algerians (1%). This indicates the difficulties to implement efficiently existing return policies and/or impossibility to establish it due to specific conditions in the country of origin. As quoted before, the possibility to differentiate statistics on forced and assisted voluntary return would allow a more precise analysis of the efficiency and/or difficulties faced to implement/establish these policies.

## 6 | ASYLUM: INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION (Article 4)

### 6.1 Applications for International Protection

#### 6.1.1 New asylum applications

In 2009 and 2010, respectively 17 215 and 21 815 new asylum applications could be counted. The influx changed, as is shown by the top five of asylum applications for both years considered. In 2009, the main countries of origin were Russia, Kosovo, Armenia, Afghanistan and Guinea. Only Russia and Kosovo figure also in the top five of 2010, though they change places. The 2010 top five is Kosovo, Russia, Serbia, Iraq, and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In 2010, compared to 2009, there are not less Afghani asylum seekers and even more asylum applications from Guinea, but the growth of the number of applications from Serbia and especially Macedonia, makes them tumble out of the top five.

The largest share of all asylum applications is introduced by citizens from outside the EU-27 (97% in 2009 and even 99% in 2010). The asylum applications are on the average introduced by men, rounded 63% of all applications consider men. There are however important regional differences. More than 80% of all applicants from Iraq were male. Respectively 59% and 56% of all applications by citizens from the DRC considered women. Almost half of the applicants are in the age group between 18 and 34 (49% in 2009 and 48% in 2010). Largely one fifth to almost a quarter of the population is children under the age of 14 (23% and 24%). There are also in relation to the number of children important regional differences. A large share of the asylum seekers from Easter Europe is quite young: 37% of the Kosovar asylum seekers, 42% of the Russian and 39% of the Serbians are under 14 years of age.

**Table 6.1 New Asylum Applications in 2009 by citizenship, age group and sex (Top 10)**

	Sex		Age					Total
	Male	Female	< 14 years	14 - 17 years	18 - 34 years	35 - 64 years	> 65 years	
Total	10.790	6.430	3.900	1.435	8.385	3.395	105	17.215
Extra EU-27	10.475	6.145	3.695	1.390	8.165	3.265	100	16.620
<b>Top 10 countries</b>								
Russia	1.115	1.140	950	125	730	430	20	2.255
Kosovo	1.260	815	730	140	875	320	10	2.075
Armenia	720	675	280	95	550	440	25	1.395
Afghanistan	910	330	285	325	485	140	5	1.240
Guinea	710	400	160	165	705	75	0	1.110
Iraq	900	195	100	75	660	255	5	1.095
Serbia	440	295	230	50	330	120	0	735
Congo (DRC)	275	390	110	50	360	140	5	665
EU-27	315	285	205	45	220	130	5	600
Rwanda	165	180	70	30	170	75	5	345

Source: Immigration Office and Eurostat

**Table 6.2 New Asylum Applications in 2010 by citizenship, age group and sex (Top 10)**

	Sex		Age					Total
	Male	Female	< 14 years	14 - 17 years	18 - 34 years	35 - 64 years	> 65 years	
Total	13.695	8.045	5.185	1.740	10.400	4.355	140	21.815
Extra EU-27	13.575	8.030	5.105	1.730	10.325	4.300	140	21.600
<b>Top 10 countries</b>								
Kosovo	1.570	1.160	1.010	175	1.050	470	20	2.730
Russia	1.010	965	820	120	640	385	10	1.975
Serbia	985	910	745	150	605	385	10	1.890
Iraq	1.335	310	180	85	955	405	15	1.645
FYR Macedonia	900	735	580	125	570	355	5	1.635
Guinea	880	525	215	245	850	95	0	1.405
Armenia	675	575	280	70	495	380	25	1.250
Afghanistan	915	320	250	330	475	170	15	1.235
Congo (DRC)	360	455	125	45	445	190	5	815
Rwanda	165	205	65	30	195	75	5	370

Source: Immigration Office and Eurostat

### 6.1.2 Multiple Asylum applications

In 2009 about 25% of all the asylum applications were multiple applications, which is comparable to previous years. In 2009 there were in total 22 955 asylum applications in Belgium of which 5.740 (25%) were multiple applications. A gender differences can be

noted. More than a quarter (27%) of the men entered multiple applications against 20% of the women.

### 6.1.3 Applications under consideration

**Table 6.3 Applications pending at the end of December 2008, 2009 and 2010 (Top 10)**

CITIZEN/TIME	December 2008	December 2009	December 2010
Total	21.320	28.515	32.240
Extra EU-27	21.000	28.045	31.980
Russia	3.050	3.975	3.865
Kosovo	/	2.155	3.480
Armenia	1.070	2.150	1.905
Congo DR	1.940	2.025	1.985
Guinea	1.200	1.775	2.600
Serbia	1.795	1.450	1.860
Rwanda	1.265	1.360	1.270
Afghanistan	670	1.265	1.450
Iraq	955	950	1.225
Cameroon	725	715	680

Source: Immigration Office and Eurostat

The table above includes the persons who are the subject of applications for international protection under consideration. Unlike all the other tables this table refers to the “stock” of applications for which decisions are still pending. This table is including the number of persons with pending applications at all instances of the administrative and/or judicial procedure.

The number of persons with a pending case at the end of 2009 was 28.515, which is quite a big increase compared to the number of persons under consideration at the end of 2008. The number of pending cases continues to grow, resulting in 32.240 persons under consideration at the end of 2010.

The countries of origin ranked in the top 10 of applications under consideration at the end of 2009 were Russia, Kosovo and Armenia; but also Guinea is on the rise.

### 6.1.4 Asylum applications withdrawn

Since 2008 the Eurostat New Cronos Database contains data on asylum applications withdrawn by citizenship, age and sex. They are rounded annual aggregated data. In 2009 1 495 cases are reported of which 1 190 are from nationals of third countries and 305 of nationals from European countries (EU27). Most files concern men (1 070 or 72%); 425 women withdrew their application. Ordered by nationality, the five largest groups were

formed by citizens from Russian Federation (130), Kosovo (130), Iraq (120), Serbia (85) and Afghanistan (7).

**Table 6.4 Asylum applications withdrawn by citizenship and sex (top 10 2009)**

CITIZEN/TIME	Total	Male	Female
Total	1.495	1.070	425
Extra EU-27	1.190	895	295
European Union (27 countries)	305	175	130
Kosovo (under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/99)	130	85	45
Russia	130	75	50
Iraq	120	110	10
Slovakia	110	55	55
Hungary	85	45	40
Serbia	85	60	30
Afghanistan	70	65	5
Iran	70	60	10
Georgia	55	40	15
Algeria	50	50	0

Source: Immigration Office and Eurostat

The number of withdrawn cases doubles in 2010 (3 145) compared to the previous 2009. The largest share (2 915), concerns third country nationals. The share of nationals from European countries (EU27) drops, compared to 2009, from 305 to 230 notwithstanding the sharp rise in the figures, most files concern men again (66%) but the share of women rises to 1 out of three.

**Table 6.5 Asylum applications withdrawn by citizenship and sex (top 10 2010)**

CITIZEN/TIME	Total	Male	Female
Total	3.145	2.120	1.030
Extra EU-27	2.915	2.005	915
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the	455	270	185
Serbia	455	265	190
Kosovo (under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/99)	360	220	140
European Union (27 countries)	230	115	115
Iraq	210	190	20
Russia	200	105	95
Afghanistan	125	110	15
Slovakia	100	50	50
Georgia	85	75	10
Iran	70	55	15
Armenia	70	45	25

Source: Immigration Office and Eurostat

### 6.1.5 Trends and legislative or administrative developments

It is clear that the fact that since the end of 2009 citizens of the Former Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Montenegro and Serbia are allowed to travel to Schengen countries without visa has had an impact on the number of asylum applications from these countries in 2010.

From July 2009 the instruction to regularise migrants on the basis of a series of listed “urgent humanitarian situations” was issued. Although new asylum applicants were not entitled to regularisation, this might have had an impact on the number of asylum applications since 2009 as well.

## 6.2 Decisions on International Protection

On First Instance, the total number of asylum decisions in 2009 was 15.310, of which a total of 2.910 were positive decisions (2 425 refugee status and 480 subsidiary protections). This involves that a bit less than 1 out of 5 (19%) of the first instance decisions taken in 2009 were positive decisions

**Table 6.6 First Instance Decisions on Asylum Applications by citizenship and type of decision / status 2009**

	Total number of decisions	Rejected	Total positive decisions	Geneva Convention status	Subsidiary protection status
Total	15 310	12 400	2 910	2 425	480
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	14 375	11 465	2 910	2 425	480
Stateless	5	5	0	0	0
Unknown	200	140	60	50	10

Source: Immigration Office, Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons and Eurostat

**Table 6.7 First Instance Decisions on Asylum Applications by citizenship and type of decision / status 2009 (top 10)**

	Total number of decisions	Rejected	Total positive decisions	Geneva Convention status	Subsidiary protection status
Russian Federation	2 085	1 785	300	300	0
Afghanistan	1 245	960	285	170	115
Iraq	1 180	575	605	305	300
Kosovo	1 065	950	115	115	0
Armenia	860	845	15	10	5
Iran	745	650	95	95	0
Congo, (DRC)	740	625	115	105	10
Guinea	700	440	265	260	5
Serbia	605	590	15	15	0
Cameroon	370	285	85	85	0

Source: Immigration Office, OCGRS and Eurostat

As for persons covered by final decisions, these are asylum applicants who were rejected in first instance by the Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons (OCGRS) and introduced an appeal to the Aliens Litigation Council. A total of 7 550 judgements were pronounced in 2009, resulting in 280 positive decisions.

On First Instance, the total number of asylum decisions in 2010 was 16 665, of which a total of 3 510 were positive decisions (2 700 refugee status and 805 subsidiary protections). This involves that a bit less more than 1 out of 5 (21%) of the first instance decisions taken in 2010 were positive decisions. This is more or less the same level as 2009.

**Table 6.8 First Instance Decisions on Asylum Applications by citizenship and type of decision / status 2010**

	Total number of decisions	Rejected	Total positive decisions	Geneva Convention status	Subsidiary protection status
Total	16 665	13 160	3 510	2 700	805
Citizens of countries outside the EU-27	16 245	12 740	3 510	2 700	805
Stateless	0	0	0	0	0
Unknown	250	185	70	60	10

Source: Immigration Office, OCGRS and Eurostat

**Table 6.9 First Instance Decisions on Asylum Applications by citizenship and type of decision / status 2010 (top 10)**

	Total number of decisions	Rejected	Total positive decisions	Geneva Convention status	Subsidiary protection status
Kosovo	1.820	1.680	140	140	0
Russia	1.630	1.420	210	210	0
Armenia	1.625	1.620	5	5	0
Afghanistan	1.415	750	665	375	290
Iraq	1.185	460	725	300	425
Guinea	1.010	635	375	365	10
Serbia	960	840	115	115	0
Congo (DRC)	565	475	90	80	10
European Union (27)	420	420	0	0	0
Iran	405	345	55	55	0

### 6.2.1 Rejected applications

The downside from 19% and 21% positive decisions of the first instance decisions in 2009 and 2010 is around 80% of negative first instance decisions. There are huge differences for the different countries of origin. In more than half of the cases (51% in 2009) Iraqi nationals for instance, received a positive decision. In 2009 around 37% of the applicants from Guinea and 23% of asylum applicants from both Cameroon and Afghanistan received a positive decision. Only in 1,7% of the Armenian applications, a positive decision was taken. The picture is similar in 2010 61% of the Iraqi applicants receive a positive decision, 47% of the Afghans (twice as much as in 2009), 37% of the applicants from Guinea opposed to 0,3% of the Armenian applications and non of the applications from EU27 citizens.

Most appeal decisions in asylum claims for the year 2009 were rejections (7 270 on a total of 7 550 decisions).

### 6.2.2 Refugee status

For most countries of origin the number of total positive decisions corresponds to the number of persons who received refugee status according to Geneva Convention (except for Afghanistan and Iraq). The top 5 of total number of refugee statuses granted in 2009 in first instance is distributed as follows: Iraq (305), Russian Federation (300), Guinea (260), Afghanistan (170) and Kosovo (115).

The recognition rate differs by country of origin. A top 10 of countries by recognition rate would look completely different, but due to on the one hand the low number of decisions for some countries and the fact that the data are rounded in units of 5 on the other, this way of presenting the data is not appropriate. Looking at the recognition rate of the top 10 countries however is possible. Guinea with a recognition rate of 37,1% precedes Iraq

(25,8%), Cameroon (23,0%), the Russian Federation (14,4%) and Congo (14,2%). These figures are however not really recognition rates since the data presented are calendar-based and the decision in an asylum application is not necessarily in the same year as the year of introduction of the asylum application.

**Table 6.10 Top 10 of countries with the highest number of recognitions (first instance) 2009**

	Geneva Convention status	Total number of decisions	Recognition rate
Iraq	305	1 180	25,8
Russian Federation	300	2 085	14,4
Guinea	260	700	37,1
Afghanistan	170	1 245	13,7
Kosovo	115	1 065	10,8
Congo (DRC)	105	740	14,2
Iran	95	745	12,8
Cameroon	85	370	23,0
Serbia	15	605	2,5
Armenia	10	860	1,2
Others	965	5 715	16,9
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 425</b>	<b>15 310</b>	<b>15,8</b>

\* Note that it is not fully correct to state that the percentages on the right in the table are recognition rates since the data presented are calendar-based and the decision in an asylum application is not necessarily in the same year as the year of introduction of the asylum application  
Source: Immigration Office, OCGRS and Eurostat

In final instance about 280 persons were granted the refugee status (150 men and 130 women).

### 6.2.3 Subsidiary protection status

Of the total of 3.505 first instance positive decisions in 2009, 480 of them refer to the status of subsidiary protection that was granted. More than 6 out of 10 (300) were for Iraqi applicants, followed by Afghanistan (115 or 24%). Almost all the statuses of subsidiary protection were granted on the basis of a serious and individual threat to a civilian's life by reason of indiscriminate violence in situations of an armed conflict (article 15 c of the council directive 2004/83/EC).

In 2009 some 115 persons were granted subsidiary protection status by means of a judgement of the appeal court. Applicants from Iraq (30) and Afghanistan (10) were the two most important countries of origin for those granted subsidiary protection by the Aliens Litigation Council.

### 6.2.4 Temporary protection

It should be noticed that positive decisions cover only refugee status and subsidiary protection. No statuses of temporary protection, neither in first instance, nor in appeal, were attributed in 2009.

### **6.2.5 Humanitarian reasons**

In Belgium, humanitarian statuses (medical or other) are granted on the basis of a specific request, and do not form part of the asylum legislative framework. People receiving a residence permit for humanitarian reasons are reported in residence permits statistics (other reasons).

### **6.2.6 Resettlement**

In 2009, in the framework of a long-expected pilot project, 47 Iraqi refugees were resettled from refugee camps in Syria and Jordan to Belgium. The New Cronos database reports on 45 people in 2009, 30 coming from Iraq and 5 from Egypt.

## **6.3 Dublin Transfers**

The Eurostat database makes a distinction between the total number of requests, accepted requests, the refused requests and the transferred request. We will focus on the total number of requests.

Regarding the incoming Dublin-requests, it's obvious that most incoming Dublin-requests involve EURODAC-requests. These figures are presented in the table below. Most requests come from neighbouring countries (France, Germany and the Netherlands). The total number of incoming requests for 2009 and 2010 is more or less equally sized: 1449 in 2009 and 1463 in 2010. Respectively 1058 and 1.134 are EURODAC requests.

**Table 6.11 total Incoming requests by member state 2009 – 2010**

PARTNER/TIME	Total Number		EURODAC	
	2009	2010	2009 ED	2010 ED
Total	1494	1.463	1058	1.134
France	335	456	185	308
Germany	364	314	270	256
Netherlands	282	239	211	199
Switzerland	139	106	121	95
United Kingdom	71	75	64	66
Sweden	60	49	46	38
Norway	48	44	32	31
Austria	30	28	23	28
Luxembourg	20	27	15	26
Poland	18	27	5	19
Denmark	38	25	17	21
Italy	15	24	15	21
Finland	35	21	30	14
Hungary	9	9	6	5
Czech Republic	2	4	2	1
Ireland	8	3	7	3
Latvia	1	3	0	0
Slovakia	4	3	1	1
Bulgaria	1	1	1	0
Greece	1	1	0	0
Iceland	4	1	4	1
Lithuania	2	1	1	0
Portugal	0	1	0	1
Spain	5	1	1	0
Belgium	0	0	0	0
Cyprus	0	0	0	0
Estonia	0	0	0	0
Malta	0	0	0	0
Romania	0	0	0	0
Slovenia	2	0	1	0

Source: Immigration Office and Eurostat

The total number of outgoing Dublin Requests for 2008 was 2017, of which 1 559 Eurodac. These numbers grew significantly in 2009 and 2010 from 3 289 in 2009 and 4 745 in 2010, with respectively 2 532 and 3 415 Eurodac requests. As for incoming requests, the lion's share of the outgoing Dublin-request are EURODAC related. The share, however, fluctuates: 67,5% in 2008, 77% in 2009 and 72,0% in 2010. Three countries figure in the top 10 list of for outgoing request by Belgium in 2008, 2009 as well as 2010: Poland, Greece and Germany. In 2009 Hungary completes this trio, in 2010 Italy. The Polish share (23% in 2009 and 26% in 2010) is always significantly larger than the share of the second largest group.

**Table 6.12 Total Outgoing Requests by member state 2009 – 2010**

PARTNER/TIME	Total Number		EURODAC	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
Total	3.289	4.745	2.532	3.415
Poland	743	1.254	697	1.141
Italy	198	650	124	233
Germany (including former GDR from 1991)	427	496	195	250
Greece	447	418	389	278
Hungary	380	371	364	313
France	289	366	204	281
Austria	122	219	96	185
Sweden	91	169	88	160
Netherlands	115	143	76	117
Spain	87	110	52	66
Switzerland	67	97	33	79
Lithuania	102	87	49	42
Norway	37	84	35	79
United Kingdom	51	61	41	46
Finland	7	48	3	29
Czech Republic	49	41	31	9
Slovakia	20	28	19	28
Slovenia	6	22	4	14
Denmark	17	20	4	20
Malta	5	12	4	11
Portugal	2	11	0	4
Cyprus	6	8	3	6
Bulgaria	3	7	3	5
Ireland	2	7	2	6
Luxembourg	12	7	12	7
Estonia	0	3	0	0
Latvia	4	3	4	3
Iceland	0	3	0	3
Belgium	0	0	0	0
Romania	0	0	0	0

Source: Immigration Office and Eurostat

#### 6.4 Unaccompanied Minors

In 2008 a total of 485 unaccompanied minors introduced an asylum application. This number is a marked decrease (-13%) compared to 2007 (555). This downward evolution

changes to a growth the years after. In 2009 730 unaccompanied minors introduced an asylum and in 2010 881. This means a growth of 51% between 2008 and 2009.

In 2009, the main countries of origin for unaccompanied minors who introduced an asylum application were the same as the previous year Afghanistan (230), Guinea (135), Iraq(45), and Congo DRC (45).

**Table 6.13 Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors by citizenship, age group and sex (Top 10 in 2009)**

	Age (Years)				Sex	
	Total	0-13	14-15	16-17	Female	Male
Total	730	55	215	465		
Extra EU-27	725	55	215	460		
Afghanistan	230	15	115	105		
Guinea	135	5	25	105		
Iraq	45	0	5	40		
Congo DRC	45	10	10	25		
Kosovo	20	0	0	20		
Russia	20	0	5	15		
Angola	20	5	5	5		
Serbia	20	5	0	15		
Somalia	15	5	0	10		
Rwanda	15	5	5	5		

Source: Immigration Office and Eurostat

**Table 6.14 Asylum applicants considered to be unaccompanied minors by citizenship, age group and sex (Top 10 in 2010)**

	Age (Years)					Sex	
	Total	0-13	14-15	16-17	Unknown	Female	Male
Total	1.080	70	240	585	185		
Extra EU-27	1.080	70	240	585	185		
Afghanistan	310	15	120	100	75		
Guinea	260	15	40	175	35		
Iraq	65	0	5	45	10		
Congo DRC	55	5	10	35	5		
Somalia	45	0	5	30	5		
Kosovo	25	0	0	20	0		
Rwanda	25	5	5	15	0		
Russia	20	5	5	10	0		
Angola	20	5	0	10	5		
Pakistan	20	0	5	10	5		

Source: Immigration Office and Eurostat

The ranking of these countries of origin is similar over the years. The share of the Afghans rose from 20% of the total of unaccompanied minors in 2007 to almost a quarter in 2008, over 32% in 2009 to 29% in 2010. The Afghan youth constitutes together with the applicants of Guinea more than half of all applications of unaccompanied minors in 2009 and 2010.

In 2009, 37% of the applicants were younger than 16. This figure drops to 28% the year after, but this change is largely due to the fact that from 17% of the applicants are registered as unknown. The 185 persons registered as unknown are in fact persons who could not be considered as a minor after an age test. In 2007 and 2008 about seven out of ten were boys. The share of the male applicants rises further to 77% in 2009 and 76% in 2010.

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