Towards a Common European Asylum System:
The Refugee Protection in the EU and the need for a more comprehensive burden-sharing approach.

Master Thesis

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To my family and
To my grandmothers, Maria and Neuza.
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Abstract

The central object of this thesis is the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), which consists in the establishment of a common asylum procedure and a uniform status valid throughout the EU. Its main objective is to analyse the current state of the CEAS in order to find out what direction this System has been taking during its implementation, and visualise how the use of a more comprehensive burden-sharing approach influence on the CEAS second phase of implementation. Secondary objectives consist in providing a brief overview of the history of international recognition of refugees and analysing the gradual development of asylum matters at the EU level, by exploring how asylum law is formed, transformed and reformed in Europe. The study makes use of a qualitative approach and the method of case study, and is done by means of collection and analysis of relevant primary and secondary sources. This thesis is structured in six chapters, each chapter presenting a specific objective that will lead to the response to the research questions. The conclusions intend to summarise the main aspects and the outcome of this research and also provide views and expectations concerning the future direction of the Common European Asylum System.

Key-words: Common European Asylum System, Burden-sharing, Refugee protection, EU asylum law, EU asylum policy.

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**List of Abbreviations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CEAS</td>
<td>Common European Asylum System</td>
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<tr>
<td>EEC Treaty</td>
<td>Treaty Establishing the European Community, Rome Treaty</td>
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<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>European Communities</td>
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<td>ECHR</td>
<td>Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECRE</td>
<td>European Council on Refugees and Exiles</td>
</tr>
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<td>ECtHR</td>
<td>European Court of Human Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECOSOC</td>
<td>United Nation Economic and Social Council</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>IRO</td>
<td>International Refugee Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNRRA</td>
<td>United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEA</td>
<td>Single European Act</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Table of contents

Acknowledgements .............................................................................................................. 3  
Abstract .............................................................................................................................. 5  
List of Abbreviations ........................................................................................................... 6  

1. Introduction ...................................................................................................................... 9  
  1.1. Problem statement and analytical framework .............................................................. 9  
  1.2. Objectives .................................................................................................................. 13  
  1.3. Research question ...................................................................................................... 13  
  1.4. Delimitation ............................................................................................................... 14  
  1.5. Methodology ............................................................................................................. 14  
  1.6. Thesis structure ......................................................................................................... 16  

2. The refugee “as a pariah”: How the status of refugee was internationally recognised ....... 17  
  2.1. Etymology and historical antecedents: from the ancient Greece to the French Revolution ... 17  
  2.2. The history of international recognition of refugees .................................................... 19  
      2.2.1. Juridical approach: 1920-1935 ............................................................................. 20  
      2.2.2. Social approach: 1935-1939 .............................................................................. 23  
      2.2.3. Individualist approach: 1938-1950 .................................................................... 25  
  2.3. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) and its Protocol (1967) ............. 28  
  2.4. European Convention of Human Rights ..................................................................... 33  

3. How EU asylum law was formed: the advent of a restrictive European Asylum Policy ....... 35  
  3.1. The White Paper and The Single European Act ......................................................... 36  
  3.2. The Schengen Agreement and its implementing Convention ..................................... 39  
  3.3. The Dublin Convention ............................................................................................ 41  
  3.4. London resolutions .................................................................................................. 44  
  3.5. The Treaty of Maastricht .......................................................................................... 46  

4. Transforming the EU asylum law: the communitarisation of the right of asylum and the launching of the Common European Asylum System ......................................................................... 50  
  4.1. The right of asylum at EU level: communitarisation institutional framework ............... 50  
      4.1.1. Treaty of Amsterdam: Art. 63 and the communitarisation ................................... 51  
      4.1.2. Tampere conclusions: The Tampere Programme and the launching of the Common European Asylum System ................................................................. 54  
      4.1.3. The Treaty of Nice .............................................................................................. 56  
  4.2. Towards a Common European Asylum System: harmonising legislation among EU Member States? ...................................................................................................................... 57  
      4.2.1. Dublin II Regulation (2003) ................................................................................ 57  
      4.2.3. Qualification Directive (2004) ............................................................................ 64  
      4.2.4. Asylum Procedures Directive (2005) .................................................................. 70  
  4.3. Related EU structure: European Refugee Fund ............................................................. 72  

5. The Reform of EU asylum: integrating asylum policy .................................................... 74  
  5.1. The Hague Programme ............................................................................................... 75  
  5.2. The Treaty of Lisbon .................................................................................................. 76

7
5.2.1. The Charter of Fundamental Rights ................................................................. 78
5.3. EU policies on asylum ....................................................................................... 79
5.3.1. Green Paper on the Future Common European Asylum System ..................... 79
5.3.2. Policy Plan on Asylum .................................................................................... 80
5.3.3. European Pact on Immigration and Asylum .................................................. 81
5.3.4. Joint EU Resettlement Programme .................................................................. 82
5.3.5. European Asylum Support Office ................................................................. 84
5.4. Stockholm Programme ...................................................................................... 85
5.5. Legislative recast proposals ............................................................................... 87

6. Conclusions .......................................................................................................... 89
6.1. Summary of observations ................................................................................... 89
6.2. The future of the CEAS and the need for a more comprehensive burden-sharing approach.. 94

Bibliography ............................................................................................................. 99
Towards a common European asylum system: the refugee protection in the EU and the need for a more comprehensive burden-sharing approach

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