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Asylum Act **(AsylA)**

of 26 June 1998 (Status as of 1 July 2015)

Please note: this translation does not yet include the amendments of 20.7.2015

Please note: this translation does not yet include the amendments of 29.9.2015

The Federal Assembly of the Swiss Confederation,
based on Article 121 of the Federal Constitution^{1,2}
and having considered the Dispatch of the Federal Council of 4 December 1995³,
decrees:

Chapter 1: Principles

Art. 1 Subject matter

This Act regulates:

- a. the granting of asylum and the legal status of refugees in Switzerland;
- b. the temporary protection of persons in need of protection in Switzerland and their return.

Art. 2 Asylum

¹ In response to an application, Switzerland grants asylum to refugees in accordance with this Act.

² Asylum includes the protection and the legal status granted in Switzerland to persons on the basis of their refugee status. It includes the right to stay in Switzerland.

Art. 3 Definition of the term refugee

¹ Refugees are persons who in their native country or in their country of last residence are subject to serious disadvantages or have a well-founded fear of being exposed to such disadvantages for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or due to their political opinions.

AS 1999 2262

¹ SR 101

² Amended by No I 1 of the Federal Act of 1 October 2010 on the Coordination of Asylum and Extradition Proceedings, in force since 1 April 2011 (AS 2011 925; BBl 2010 1467).

³ BBl 1996 II 1

² Serious disadvantages include a threat to life, physical integrity or freedom as well as measures that exert intolerable psychological pressure. Motives for seeking asylum specific to women must be taken into account.

³ Persons who are subject to serious disadvantages or have a well-founded fear of being exposed to such disadvantages because they have refused to perform military service or have deserted are not refugees. The provisions of the Convention of 28 July 1951⁴ relating to the Status of Refugees are reserved.⁵

⁴ Persons who claim grounds based on their conduct following their departure that are neither an expression nor a continuation of a conviction already held in their native country or country of origin are not refugees. The provisions of the Convention of 28 July 1951⁶ relating to the Status of Refugees (Refugee Convention) are reserved.⁷

Art. 4 Granting temporary protection

Switzerland may grant temporary protection to persons in need of protection as long as they are exposed to a serious general danger, in particular during a war or civil war as well as in situations of general violence.

Art. 5 Ban on refoulement

¹ No person may be forced in any way to return to a country where their life, physical integrity or freedom are threatened on any of the grounds stated in Article 3 paragraph 1 or where they would be at risk of being forced to return to such a country.

² The ban on refoulement may not be invoked if there are substantial grounds for the assumption that, because the person invoking it has a legally binding conviction for a particularly serious felony or misdemeanour, they represent a threat to Switzerland's security or are to be considered dangerous to the public.

Art. 6⁸ Procedural principles

The procedures are governed by the Federal Act of 20 December 1968⁹ on Administrative Procedure (Administrative Procedure Act), the Federal Administrative Court Act of 17 June 2005¹⁰ and the Federal Supreme Court Act of 17 June 2005¹¹, unless this Act provides otherwise.

⁴ SR **0.142.30**

⁵ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 28 Sept 2012 (Emergency Amendments to the Asylum Act), in force from 29 Sept. 2012 to 28 Sept. 2015 (AS **2012** 5359; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

⁶ SR **0.142.30**

⁷ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

⁸ Amended by Annex No 4 of the Federal Administrative Court Act of 17 June 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2007 (SR **173.32**).

⁹ SR **172.021**

¹⁰ SR **173.32**

¹¹ SR **173.110**

Chapter 2: Asylum Seekers

Section 1: General Provisions

Art. 6a¹² Competent authority

¹ The State Secretariat for Migration (SEM)¹³ decides on granting or refusing to grant asylum as well as on deportation from Switzerland.

² The Federal Council shall identify states in which on the basis of its findings:

- a. there is protection against persecution, as safe native country or country of origin;
- b. there is efficient protection against refoulement as defined in Article 5 paragraph 1, as safe third countries.

³ It shall periodically review decisions made in terms of paragraph 2.

Art. 7 Proof of refugee status

¹ Any person who applies for asylum must prove or at least credibly demonstrate their refugee status.

² Refugee status is credibly demonstrated if the authority regards it as proven on the balance of probabilities.

³ Cases are not credible in particular if they are unfounded in essential points or are inherently contradictory, do not correspond to the facts or are substantially based on forged or falsified evidence.

Art. 8 Duty to cooperate

¹ Asylum seekers are obliged to cooperate in the establishment of the facts. They must in particular:

- a. reveal their identity;
- b. hand over their travel documents and identity papers at the reception and processing centre¹⁴;
- c. state at the hearing why they are seeking asylum;
- d. indicate any evidence in full and submit this without delay or, as far as this seems reasonable, endeavour to acquire such evidence within an appropriate period;

¹² Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

¹³ The name of this administrative unit was amended by Art. 16 para. 3 of the Publications Ordinance of 17 Nov. 2004 (SR 170.512.1), in force since 1 Jan. 2015. This amendment has been made throughout the text.

¹⁴ Term in accordance with No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325). This change has been made throughout the text.

e.¹⁵ cooperate in providing biometric data.

² Asylum seekers may be required to arrange for the translation of foreign-language documents into one of Switzerland's official languages.

³ Asylum seekers who reside in Switzerland are obliged make themselves available to the federal and cantonal authorities during the procedure. They must inform the cantonal or communal authority competent under cantonal legislation (the cantonal authority) of their address and any change to this immediately.

^{3bis} Persons, who fail to cooperate without valid reason or fail to make themselves available for more than 20 days lose their right to have the proceeding continued. Their applications are cancelled without a formal decision being taken. No new application may be filed within three years. The foregoing is subject to compliance with the Refugee Convention of 28 July 1951^{16,17}

⁴ In the event of an enforceable removal ruling being issued, the persons concerned are obliged to cooperate in obtaining valid travel documents.

Art. 9 Search

¹ The competent authority may search asylum seekers who are accommodated in a reception and processing centre or in private or collective accommodation and the possessions they have with them for their travel and identity documents as well as dangerous objects, drugs and assets of dubious origin.¹⁸

² Asylum seekers may only be searched by members of the same sex.

Art. 10 Seizure and confiscation of documents

¹ The SEM shall place asylum seekers' travel documents and identity papers on file.¹⁹

² Authorities and government offices shall seize and pass on to the SEM travel documents, identity papers or other documents which may indicate the identity of person who has applied for asylum in Switzerland. Paragraph 5 applies to recognised refugees.²⁰

³ If the authority or government office seizing documents in accordance with paragraph 2 examine these with regard to their authenticity, the SEM must be notified of the results of this examination.

¹⁵ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

¹⁶ SR **0.142.30**

¹⁷ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

¹⁸ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

¹⁹ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

²⁰ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

⁴ Forged and falsified documents as well as genuine documents which have been misused may be confiscated by the SEM or by the appellate authority or passed on to the agent.

⁵ Passports or identity papers that have been issued to refugees recognised in Switzerland by their native country must be passed on to the SEM.²¹

Art. 11 Hearing of the evidence

In the event that a hearing of evidence is necessary to investigate the facts of the case, asylum seekers may not express a view on the authority's arrangement of evidence prior to the hearing.

Art. 12 Address for service

¹ Any service of documents or communication to the last known address of asylum seekers or of their agents becomes legally binding on expiry of the statutory seven-day time-limit for collection, even if the persons concerned do not learn of this until later due to a special agreement with Swiss Post or if the delivery is returned as undeliverable.

² If the asylum seeker is represented by several agents and if these do not indicate a joint address for service, the authority shall address its communications to the first agent authorised by the asylum seeker.

³ ...²²

Art. 13 Notification and statement of grounds for rulings and decisions

¹ In appropriate cases, notification may be given of rulings and decisions verbally and a summary statement of grounds provided.

² Verbal notification must be recorded in minutes that include a statement of the grounds. The asylum seekers must be given an official copy of the protocol.

³ The competent authorities may also notify persons applying for asylum at the border or at the border control in a Swiss airport (Art. 21–23) of a decision or ruling by serving them with a signed copy of the ruling or decision that has been transmitted by fax. The persons concerned must confirm in writing that they have been served with the ruling or decision; in the absence of such confirmation, the competent authority shall record the service of the ruling or decision. Article 11 paragraph 3 of the Administrative Procedure Act²³ does not apply. Any agent shall be informed of the notification.

²¹ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

²² Inserted by Annex No 4 of the Federal Administrative Court Act of 17 June 2005 (AS 2006 2197 1069; BBl 2001 4202). Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 28 Sept 2012 (Emergency Amendments to the Asylum Act), with effect from 29 Sept. 2012 to 28 Sept. 2015 (AS 2012 5359; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325). See also the transitional provisions to this amendment at the end of the text.

²³ SR 172.021

⁴ In other urgent cases, the SEM may authorise a cantonal authority, a Swiss diplomatic mission or a consular representation abroad (Swiss representation) to notify those concerned of a decision or ruling by serving them with a signed copy of the ruling or decision that has been transmitted by fax.

⁵ The SEM may notify asylum seekers who are represented by an agent of the dismissal of an application in terms of Article 31a paragraph 1 letter b. Notification shall be made to the agent immediately.²⁴

Art. 14²⁵ Issues relative to the procedure for foreign nationals

¹ From filing an asylum application to departure from Switzerland in accordance with a legally binding removal order, following the withdrawal of an asylum application, or until the ordering of a substitute measure in the event that deportation cannot be enforced, persons seeking asylum may not initiate any procedure for the granting of a residence permit under the law on foreign nationals unless they are entitled to be issued with such a permit.

² The canton may with consent of the SEM grant a person for whom it is responsible in terms of this Act a residence permit if:²⁶

- a. the person concerned has been a resident for a minimum of five years in Switzerland since filing the asylum application;
 - b. the place of stay of the person concerned has always been known by the authorities; and
 - c. in light of their advanced stage of integration, there is a case of serious personal hardship.
- d.²⁷ there are no grounds for revocation under Article 62 of the Foreign Nationals Act of 16 December 2005²⁸ (FNA).

³ If the canton wishes to take advantage of this opportunity, it shall inform the SEM without delay.

⁴ The person concerned shall only have party status during the SEM's consent procedure.

⁵ Pending proceedings for the granting of a residence permit become irrelevant with the filing of an asylum application.

⁶ Residence permits remain valid and may be extended in accordance with the provisions of the law on foreign nationals.

²⁴ Inserted by Art. 2 No 2 of the Federal Decree of 18 June 2010 on the Adoption of the EC Directive on the Return of Illegal Immigrants (Directive 2008/115/EC) (AS 2010 5925; BBl 2009 8881). Amended by No 1 of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

²⁵ Amended by No 1 of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2007 (AS 2006 4745 4767; BBl 2002 6845).

²⁶ Amended by No 1 of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

²⁷ Inserted by No 1 of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

²⁸ SR 142.20

Art. 15 Intercantonal offices

The cantons may establish intercantonal offices to fulfil the duties assigned to them in accordance with this Act, in particular for the hearing, preparation of the decision and the enforcement of any removal order.

Art. 16 Procedural language

¹ Submissions may be made to the federal authorities in any official language.

² SEM rulings or interim rulings are issued in the official language spoken at the asylum seeker's place of residence.²⁹

³ The SEM may derogate from paragraph 2 by way of exception if:

- a. the asylum seeker or his or her legal representative has a good command of a different official language;
- b. this is temporarily required to deal with applications efficiently and on time taking account of the number of applications received and the staff situation;
- c. the asylum seeker is heard directly in a reception and processing centre and allocated to a canton with a different official language.³⁰

Art. 17 Special procedural provisions

¹ The provision of the Administrative Procedure Act³¹ on legal holidays does not apply to asylum proceedings.

² The Federal Council shall issue supplementary provisions on the asylum procedure, in particular to give consideration to the special situation of women and minors in the procedure.

^{2bis} Applications for asylum made by unaccompanied minors shall be processed as a priority.³²

³ The responsible cantonal authorities shall immediately appoint an authorised representative for unaccompanied minor asylum seekers, to take care of the minor's interests for the duration:

- a. of the procedure at the airport if decisive procedural steps are carried out there;
- b. of the minor's stay in a reception and processing centre, if, in addition to the short interview in accordance with Article 26 paragraph 2, decisive procedural steps are carried out; or
- c. of the procedure following allocation to the canton.

²⁹ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

³⁰ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

³¹ SR **172.021**

³² Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

d.³³ of the Dublin procedure.³⁴

^{3bis} If there are indications that an alleged foreign minor has reached the age of majority, the SEM may arrange an expert report on that person's age.³⁵

⁴ The Federal Council shall regulate the access to legal advice and legal representation at reception and processing centres and airports.³⁶

⁵ On notification of a decision under Article 23 paragraph 1, 31a or 111c, the SEM shall send the asylum seeker or his or her agent the case files at the same time if enforcement of the removal order has been ordered.³⁷

⁶ The Federal Council shall determine the role, responsibilities and duties of the representative.³⁸

Art. 17a³⁹ Fees for services

The SEM may charge third parties fees and outlays for services.

Art. 17b⁴⁰

Section 2: Application for Asylum and Entry

Art. 18 Application for asylum

Any statement a person makes indicating that they are seeking protection in Switzerland from persecution elsewhere shall be regarded as an application for asylum.

³³ Inserted by Annex No 1 I of the Federal Decree of 26 Sept. 2014 (Adoption of R[EU] No 604/2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection), in force since 1 July 2015 (AS 2015 1841; BBl 2014 2675).

³⁴ Amended by No 1 of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

³⁵ Inserted by No 1 of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

³⁶ Inserted by No 1 of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

³⁷ Inserted by No 1 of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

³⁸ Inserted by Annex No 1 I of the Federal Decree of 26 Sept. 2014 (Adoption of R[EU] No 604/2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection), in force since 1 July 2015 (AS 2015 1841; BBl 2014 2675).

³⁹ Inserted by No 1 of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

⁴⁰ Inserted by No 1 of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2007 (AS 2006 4745 4767; BBl 2002 6845). Repealed by No 1 of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, with effect from 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

Art. 19⁴¹ Filing an application

¹ The application for asylum must be filed at a border control point at a Swiss airport, on entry at an open border crossing or at a reception and processing centre.⁴²

^{1bis} An application may only be filed by a person who is at the Swiss border or on Swiss territory.⁴³

² ...⁴⁴

³ Asylum seekers shall be informed of their rights and obligations in the asylum procedure when they file an application.

Art. 20⁴⁵**Art. 21**⁴⁶ Application for asylum made at the border, following detention in the vicinity of the border, on illegal entry or within Switzerland

¹ Persons who request asylum at the border or following their detention for illegal entry in the vicinity of the border or within Switzerland shall normally be assigned by the competent authorities to a reception and processing centre.

² The SEM shall verify its competence to carry out the asylum procedure, taking account of the provisions of the Dublin Association Agreements.

³ The Dublin Association Agreements are listed in Annex 1.

Art. 22⁴⁷ Procedure at the airport

¹ In the case of persons who apply for asylum at a Swiss airport, the competent authority shall record their personal details and take their fingerprints and photo-

⁴¹ See also the transitional provisions to the Amendment of 29 Sept. 2012 at the end of the text.

⁴² Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 28 Sept 2012 (Emergency Amendments to the Asylum Act), in force from 29 Sept. 2012 to 28 Sept. 2015 (AS **2012** 5359; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

⁴³ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 28 Sept 2012 (Emergency Amendments to the Asylum Act), in force from 29 Sept. 2012 to 28 Sept. 2015 (AS **2012** 5359; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

⁴⁴ Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 28 Sept 2012 (Emergency Amendments to the Asylum Act), with effect from 29 Sept. 2012 to 28 Sept. 2015 (AS **2012** 5359; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

⁴⁵ Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 28 Sept 2012 (Emergency Amendments to the Asylum Act), with effect from 29 Sept. 2012 to 28 Sept. 2015 (AS **2012** 5359; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325). See also the transitional provisions to this amendment at the end of the text.

⁴⁶ Amended by Annex No I of the Federal Act of 13 June 2008 (Amendments in implementation of the Schengen and Dublin Association Agreements), in force since 12 Dec. 2008 (AS **2008** 5407 5405 Art. 2 let. c; BBl **2007** 7937).

⁴⁷ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

graphs. It may record additional biometric data and summarily ask asylum seekers about their itinerary and the reasons for leaving their country.⁴⁸

^{1bis} The SEM shall verify its competence to carry out the asylum procedure, taking account of the provisions of the Dublin Association Agreements.⁴⁹

^{1ter} It shall authorise entry if Switzerland is competent to carry out the asylum procedure in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 604/2013⁵⁰ and the asylum seeker:⁵¹

- a. appears to be at risk for any of the grounds stated in Article 3 paragraph 1 or under threat of inhumane treatment in the country from which they have directly arrived; or
- b. establishes that the country from which they have directly arrived would force them, in violation of the ban on refoulement, to return to a country in which they appear to be at risk.⁵²

² If, on the basis of the measures in accordance with paragraph 1 and the verification in accordance with paragraph 1^{bis}, it is not immediately possible to determine whether the requirements for an entry permit in accordance with Article 1^{ter} are fulfilled, entry shall be temporarily denied.⁵³

^{2bis} In order to avoid cases of hardship, the Federal Council may specify the additional cases in which entry will be authorised.⁵⁴

³ If the SEM denies entry to asylum seekers, it shall provide them with a place of stay and appropriate accommodation. It bears the cost of the accommodation. Airport operators are responsible for providing reasonably priced accommodation.⁵⁵

⁴⁸ Amended by Annex No 1 of the Federal Act of 13 June 2008 (Amendments in implementation of the Schengen and Dublin Association Agreements), in force since 12 Dec. 2008 (AS 2008 5407 5405 Art. 2 let. c; BBl 2007 7937).

⁴⁹ Inserted by Annex No 1 of the Federal Act of 13 June 2008 (Amendments in implementation of the Schengen and Dublin Association Agreements), in force since 12 Dec. 2008 (AS 2008 5407 5405 Art. 2 let. c; BBl 2007 7937).

⁵⁰ Council Regulation (EC) No 604/2013 of 26 June 2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national; (new version), Amended by OJ L 180 of 29.6.2013, p. 31.

⁵¹ Amended by Annex No 1 of the Federal Decree of 26 Sept. 2014 (Adoption of R[EU] No 604/2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection), in force since 1 July 2015 (AS 2015 1841; BBl 2014 2675).

⁵² Inserted by Annex No 1 of the Federal Act of 13 June 2008 (Amendments in implementation of the Schengen and Dublin Association Agreements), in force since 12 Dec. 2008 (AS 2008 5407 5405 Art. 2 let. c; BBl 2007 7937).

⁵³ Amended by Annex No 1 of the Federal Act of 13 June 2008 (Amendments in implementation of the Schengen and Dublin Association Agreements), in force since 12 Dec. 2008 (AS 2008 5407 5405 Art. 2 let. c; BBl 2007 7937).

⁵⁴ Inserted by Annex No 1 of the Federal Act of 13 June 2008 (Amendments in implementation of the Schengen and Dublin Association Agreements), in force since 12 Dec. 2008 (AS 2008 5407 5405 Art. 2 let. c; BBl 2007 7937).

⁵⁵ Amended by No 1 of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325). See also the transitional provision to this Amendment at the end of the text.

⁴ The asylum seeker must be informed about the decision on denial of entry and on the allocation of a place of stay within two days of filing the application and be notified of their rights of appeal. Prior to this, the asylum seeker shall be granted a hearing in accordance with the law, and also be given the opportunity to have a legal representative.

⁵ Asylum seekers may be held at the airport or exceptionally at another location for a maximum of 60 days. On the issue of a legally binding removal order, asylum seekers may be transferred to a prison specifically for deportees.

⁶ The SEM may thereafter allocate asylum seekers to a canton. In all other cases, the further procedure at the airport is regulated by Articles 23, 29, 30, 36 and 37.

Art. 23⁵⁶ Decisions at the airport

¹ If the SEM does not grant entry into Switzerland, it may dismiss or reject the application for asylum.⁵⁷

² Notification must be given of the decision within 20 days of the application being filed. If the procedure lasts longer, the SEM shall allocate the asylum seeker to a canton.

Art. 24⁵⁸

Section 3: Procedure at First Instance

Art. 25⁵⁹

Art. 25^{a60} Advisory preliminary meeting

Before opening the asylum proceedings it must be clarified with the asylum seeker, whether an application for asylum has been filed under this Act and this application for asylum is sufficiently justifiable. If this is not the case and the asylum seeker withdraws his or her application, it shall be cancelled without a formal decision being taken and the return journey initiated. The SEM may invite third parties to attend this advisory preliminary meeting.

⁵⁶ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

⁵⁷ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

⁵⁸ Repealed by Annex No 1 of the Federal Act of 13 June 2008 (Amendments in implementation of the Schengen and Dublin Association Agreements), with effect from 12 Dec. 2008 (AS 2008 5407 5405 Art. 2 let. c; BBl 2007 7937).

⁵⁹ Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, with effect from 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

⁶⁰ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

Art. 26 Reception and processing centres, preparatory phase⁶¹

¹ The Confederation shall set up reception and processing centres, which shall be run by the SEM.

^{1bis} Asylum seekers who endanger public security and order or who by their behaviour seriously disrupt the normal operation of the reception and processing centres may be accommodated by the SEM in special centres that are set up and run by the SEM or by cantonal authorities. Asylum seekers that have been allocated to a canton may be accommodated subject to the same requirements in these centres. The Confederation and the cantons share the cost of the centres in proportion to the use that they make of them.⁶²

^{1ter} The same procedures as in the reception and processing centres, with the exception of filing an application for asylum, may be carried out in the centres mentioned in paragraph 1^{bis}.⁶³

^{1quater} After the application for asylum has been filed, the preparatory phase begins. It lasts no longer than three weeks.⁶⁴

² The reception and processing centre shall record the asylum seekers' personal details and shall normally take their fingerprints and photographs. In the preparatory phase, the SEM records the asylum seekers' personal details and normally takes their fingerprints and photographs. It may collect additional biometric data, prepare reports on a person's age (Art. 17 para. 3^{bis}), verify evidence and travel and identity documents and make enquiries specific to origin and identity. It may ask the asylum seekers about their identity and their itinerary, and summarily about the reasons for leaving their country.⁶⁵

^{2bis} The comparison of data under Article 102a^{bis} paragraphs 2 and 3 and the request for admission or readmission to the competent state bound by one of the Dublin Association Agreements is normally made during the preparatory phase.⁶⁶

^{2ter} The SEM may delegate the task of managing the operation of reception and processing centres and special centres under paragraph 1^{bis} as well as further tasks under paragraph 2 to third parties; such tasks do not include interviewing asylum

⁶¹ Amended by No 1 of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

⁶² Inserted by No 1 of the Federal Act of 28 Sept 2012 (Emergency Amendments to the Asylum Act), in force from 29 Sept. 2012 to 28 Sept. 2015 (AS **2012** 5359; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

⁶³ Inserted by No 1 of the Federal Act of 28 Sept 2012 (Emergency Amendments to the Asylum Act), in force from 29 Sept. 2012 to 28 Sept. 2015 (AS **2012** 5359; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

⁶⁴ Inserted by No 1 of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

⁶⁵ Amended by No 1 of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

⁶⁶ Inserted by No 1 of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845). Amended by No 1 of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

seekers under paragraph 2. Third parties are subject to the same duty of confidentiality as federal personnel.⁶⁷

³ The Federal Justice and Police Department (FDJP⁶⁸) shall issue provisions to ensure a rapid procedure that is operated efficiently.

Art. 26^{bis} 69 Establishing medical condition

¹ Immediately after filing their application, but at the latest at the hearing on the grounds for asylum under Article 36 paragraph 2 or being granted a hearing under Article 36 paragraph 1, asylum seekers must state any serious health problems of relevance to the asylum and removal procedures of which they were aware when filing the application for asylum.

² The SEM appoints a competent medical specialist to investigate matters contended under paragraph 1. Article 82*a* applies *mutatis mutandis*. The SEM may delegate the required medical duties to a third party.

³ Medical problems that are claimed later or established by another medical specialist may be taken into account in the asylum and removal procedures if they are proven. The provision of *prima facie* evidence suffices by way of exception if there are excusable grounds for the delay or proof cannot be provided in the case in question for medical reasons. The SEM may call in an independent medical examiner.

Art. 26*a* 70 Use of federal installations and buildings to accommodate asylum seekers

¹ Federal installations and buildings may be used without cantonal or communal authorisation to accommodate asylum seekers for a maximum of three years provided the change in use does not require substantial structural measures and there is no significant change in the occupancy of the installation or building.

² The following in particular do not constitute substantial structural measures within the meaning of paragraph 1:

- a. normal maintenance work to buildings and installations;
- b. minor structural alterations;

⁶⁷ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 28 Sept 2012 (Emergency Amendments to the Asylum Act), in force from 29 Sept. 2012 to 28 Sept. 2015 (AS **2012** 5359; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

⁶⁸ Term in accordance with No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325). This change has been made throughout the text.

⁶⁹ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325). See also the transitional provision to this Amendment at the end of the text.

⁷⁰ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 28 Sept 2012 (Emergency Amendments to the Asylum Act), in force from 29 Sept. 2012 to 28 Sept. 2015 (AS **2012** 5359; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

- c. the installation of equipment of minor importance such as sanitary facilities or water and electricity connections;
- d. movable structures.

³ The Confederation shall give notice of the change of use to the canton and the local commune following their consultation 60 days at the latest before the accommodation comes into operation.

Art. 27 Allocation to the cantons

¹ The cantons shall come to an agreement on the allocation of asylum seekers.

² If the cantons cannot reach an agreement, the Federal Council shall, after hearing them, set out the criteria for allocation in an ordinance.

³ The SEM shall allocate asylum seekers to the cantons (cantons of allocation).⁷¹ In doing so, it shall take account of the interests of the cantons and the asylum seekers that are worthy of protection. Asylum seekers may only contest the decision on allocation if it violates the principle of family unity.

⁴ Persons whose application for asylum was dismissed or rejected at the reception and processing centre (Art. 32–34) shall not be allocated to a canton. Exempted therefrom are in particular persons:⁷²

- a. who have filed an appeal which has not, however, been decided within a reasonable time from filing of the application for asylum; or
- b. who are being prosecuted for or have already been convicted of a felony or misdemeanour committed in Switzerland;
- c.⁷³⁷⁴

Art. 28 Allocation of a place of stay and accommodation

¹ The SEM or the cantonal authorities may allocate asylum seekers to a place of stay.

² They may allocate asylum seekers accommodation, and in particular accommodate them as a group. The cantons shall ensure that this procedure is operated efficiently; they may lay down provisions and take measures.⁷⁵

⁷¹ Amended by No I 2 of the Federal Act of 19 Dec. 2003 on the 2003 Relief Programme, in force since 1 April 2004 (AS 2004 1633 1647; BBl 2003 5615).

⁷² Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

⁷³ Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, with effect from 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

⁷⁴ Inserted by No I 2 of the Federal Act of 19 Dec. 2003 on the Budgetary Relief Programme 2003, in force since 1 April 2004 (AS 2004 1633; BBl 2003 5615).

⁷⁵ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

Art. 29 Hearing on the grounds for asylum

¹ The SEM shall interview asylum seekers on their grounds for asylum:

- a. in the reception and processing centres; or
- b. in the canton, within 20 days after the decision on allocation.⁷⁶

^{1bis} If necessary, it shall call in an interpreter.⁷⁷

² The asylum seekers may be accompanied by a representative and an interpreter of their choice who are not themselves asylum seekers.

³ Minutes shall be taken of the hearing. They shall be signed by those participating in the hearing, with the exception of the representative of the charitable organisations.

⁴ The SEM may entrust the cantonal authorities with the conduct of the hearing if this leads to a considerable acceleration of the procedure. The hearing shall be conducted according to paragraphs 1–3.⁷⁸

Art. 29a⁷⁹ Cooperation in establishing the circumstances

The Federal Council may enter into agreements with third countries and international organisations on cooperation in establishing the circumstances of cases. It may in particular enter into agreements on a mutual exchange of information in order to establish the motives for seeking asylum of an asylum seeker in his or her native country or country of origin, his or her itinerary and his or her stay in a third country.

Art. 30 Representation of the charitable organisations

¹ Authorised charitable organisations shall send a representative to the hearing on the grounds for asylum in accordance with Article 29, provided the asylum seeker does not object.

² The Federal Council shall regulate the requirements for the authorisation the attendance of the charitable organisations. The FDJP is responsible for authorisation. The charitable organisations are responsible for the coordination of their presence at the hearing.

³ The authorities shall notify the charitable organisations of the dates of hearings in good time. If the representative of the charitable organisations does not respond to the invitation, the hearings shall nevertheless have full legal effect.

⁷⁶ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

⁷⁷ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

⁷⁸ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

⁷⁹ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

⁴ The representative of the charitable organisations shall observe the hearing, but does not have party rights. They shall confirm their participation with their signature and are subject to the duty of confidentiality towards third parties. The representative may suggest that questions be asked aimed at clarifying the facts of the case, suggest further clarification and raise objections to the minutes.

Art. 31⁸⁰ Preparation of decisions by the cantons

The FDJP may with the consent of the cantons determine that cantonal officials prepare the decisions on behalf of and under the supervision of the SEM.

Art. 31a⁸¹ SEM decisions

¹ The SEM shall normally dismiss an application for asylum if the asylum seeker:

- a. can return to a safe third country under Article 6a paragraph 2 letter b in which he or she was previously resident;
- b. can travel to a third country that is responsible under an international agreement for conducting the asylum and removal procedures;
- c. can return to a third country in which he or she was previously resident;
- d. can continue to a third country for which he or she holds a visa and in which he or she can seek protection;
- e. can continue to a third country in which persons with whom he or she has a close relationship or dependants live.
- f.⁸² can be removed to their native country or country of origin under Article 31b.

² Paragraph 1 letters c–e do not apply if there are indications in the case in question that the third country does not provide effective protection against refoulement in terms of Article 5 paragraph 1.

³ The SEM shall dismiss an application that fails to meet the requirements of Article 18. This applies in particular if the application for asylum is made exclusively for economic or medical reasons.

⁴ In the other cases, the SEM shall reject the application for asylum if refugee status has neither been proven nor credibly demonstrated or there are grounds for denying asylum under Articles 52–54.

⁸⁰ Amended by No 1 of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

⁸¹ Inserted by No 1 of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

⁸² Inserted by No 1 of the Federal Act of 26 Sept. 2014, in force since 1 July 2015 (AS 2015 1871; BBl 2014 3373).

Art. 31^b⁸³ Recognition of asylum and removal decisions made in Dublin States

¹ An asylum seeker in respect of whom a negative asylum decision and a legally binding removal decision has been issued in a state that is bound by one of the Dublin Association Agreements (Dublin State) may be removed directly to their native country or country of origin in accordance with the requirements of Directive 2001/40/EC⁸⁴ if:

- a. the competent Dublin State has not executed any removals to the asylum seeker's native country or country of origin for a long period; and
- b. it is likely that removal from Switzerland can be executed quickly.

² The SEM shall obtain the information required to execute the removal from the the competent authorities of the Dublin State concerned and make the necessary arrangements.

Art. 32–35⁸⁵

Art. 35^a⁸⁶ Resumption of asylum proceedings under the Dublin procedure

If Switzerland is responsible for assessing an asylum application on the basis of Regulation (EC) No 604/2013⁸⁷, the asylum proceedings shall be resumed, even if the asylum application had previously been dismissed.

Art. 36⁸⁸ Procedure prior to a decision

¹ If it is decided to dismiss an application under Article 31^a paragraph 1, the asylum seeker is granted a hearing. The same applies if the asylum seeker:

- a. deceives the authorities as to his or her identity and this deception is confirmed by the results of the identification procedure or other evidence;
- b. bases his or her application primarily on forged or falsified evidence;
- c. seriously and culpably fails to cooperate in some other way.

² In the other cases, a hearing is held under Article 29.

⁸³ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 26 Sept. 2014, in force since 1 July 2015 (AS 2015 1871; BBI 2014 3373).

⁸⁴ Council Directive 2001/40/EC of 28 May 2001 on the mutual recognition of decisions on the expulsion of third country nationals, OJ L 149 of 2.6.2001, p. 34.

⁸⁵ Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, with effect from 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBI 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

⁸⁶ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005 (AS 2006 4745; BBI 2002 6845). Amended by Annex No I 1 of the Federal Decree of 26 Sept. 2014 (Adoption of R[EU] establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national), in force since 1 July 2015 (AS 2015 1841; BBI 2014 2675).

⁸⁷ See footnote to Art. 22 para. 1^{ter}.

⁸⁸ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBI 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

Art. 37⁸⁹ Procedural deadlines in the first instance

¹ Decisions to dismiss an application must normally be made within five working days of the application being filed or after the Dublin state concerned has agreed to the transfer request under Articles 19 and 20 of Regulation (EC) No 343/2003⁹⁰.⁹¹

² In other cases, decisions must normally be made within ten working days of the application being filed.⁹²

³ ...⁹³

⁴ The SEM shall decide with particular expeditiousness if the person seeking asylum is in detention pending extradition.⁹⁴

Art. 37a⁹⁵ Grounds

Decisions to dismiss an application must be accompanied by a summary statement of grounds.

Art. 37b⁹⁶ SEM processing strategy

The SEM shall set out in a processing strategy which applications for asylum shall be processed as a priority. In doing so, it shall pay particular attention to the statutory time limits, the situation in the countries of origin, the evident merits or otherwise of the applications and the conduct of the asylum seekers.

Art. 38⁹⁷

⁸⁹ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

⁹⁰ Council Regulation (EC) No 343/2003 of 18 Feb. 2003 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national, OJ. L 50 of 25.2.2003, p. 1.

⁹¹ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

⁹² Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

⁹³ Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, with effect from 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

⁹⁴ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 1 October 2010 on the Coordination of Asylum and Extradition Proceedings, in force since 1 April 2011 (AS **2011** 925; BBl **2010** 1467).

⁹⁵ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

⁹⁶ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

⁹⁷ Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, with effect from 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

Art. 39⁹⁸ Granting temporary protection

If, as a result of the questioning at the reception and processing centre or at the hearing, it is obvious that asylum seekers belong to a group of persons in need of protection in accordance with Article 66, they shall be granted temporary protection.

Art. 40 Rejection without further investigations

¹ If, as a result of the hearing, it is obvious that asylum seekers are unable to prove or credibly demonstrate their refugee status and there are no grounds preventing their removal, the application shall be rejected without further investigations.

² The decision must at least be summarily substantiated.⁹⁹

Art. 41¹⁰⁰**Art. 41a¹⁰¹** Coordination with the extradition proceedings

If the person seeking asylum is the subject of an application for extradition in accordance with the Mutual Assistance Act of 20 March 1981¹⁰², the SEM shall consult the files on the extradition proceedings when deciding on the asylum application.

Section 4: Status of Asylum Seekers during the Procedure**Art. 42¹⁰³** Stay during the asylum procedure

Any person who applies for asylum in Switzerland may stay in Switzerland until the conclusion of the procedure.

Art. 43 Authorisation to engage in gainful employment

¹ For the first three months after filing an application for asylum, asylum seekers may not engage in any gainful employment. If asylum is denied at the first instance within this period, the Canton may refuse the authorisation to engage in gainful employment for a further three months.

⁹⁸ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

⁹⁹ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

¹⁰⁰ Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, with effect from 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

¹⁰¹ Inserted by No I 1 of the Federal Act of 1 October 2010 on the Coordination of Asylum and Extradition Proceedings, in force since 1 April 2011 (AS **2011** 925; BBl **2010** 1467).
SR **351.1**

¹⁰³ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

^{1bis} The additional requirements for authorisation to engage in gainful employment are governed by the Federal Act of 16 December 2005¹⁰⁴ on Foreign Nationals (FNA).¹⁰⁵

² If an application for asylum is rejected in a legally binding decision, the authorisation to engage in gainful employment expires on expiry of the deadline specified for departure, even if an extraordinary legal remedy has been applied for and the enforcement of removal has been suspended. If the SEM extends the departure deadline as part of the ordinary procedure, gainful employment may continue to be authorised. No authorisation to engage in gainful employment may be granted during proceedings under Article 111c.¹⁰⁶

³ The FDJP may, in agreement with the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research authorise the cantons to extend permits for certain categories of persons to pursue gainful employment beyond the expiry the departure deadline, provided special circumstances justify this. This also applies mutatis mutandis to asylum proceedings under Article 111c.¹⁰⁷

^{3bis} The Federal Council may issue a temporary ban on employment for certain groups of asylum seekers.¹⁰⁸

⁴ Asylum seekers who are entitled to pursue gainful employment in accordance with the immigration provisions or who participate in charitable occupational programmes are not subject to the ban on employment.

Section 5: Enforcement of Removal Orders and Alternative Measures¹⁰⁹

Art. 44¹¹⁰ Removal and temporary admission

¹ If the SEM rejects or dismisses the application for asylum, it shall normally order and enforce removal from Switzerland; however, in doing so it shall take account of the principle of family unity. In addition, Articles 83 and 84 FNA¹¹¹ apply to the enforcement of the removal order.

¹⁰⁴ SR 142.20

¹⁰⁵ Inserted by Annex No II 1 of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005 on Foreign Nationals, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (SR 142.20).

¹⁰⁶ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

¹⁰⁷ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

¹⁰⁸ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

¹⁰⁹ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

¹¹⁰ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

¹¹¹ SR 142.20

Art. 44a¹¹²**Art. 45** Removal order¹¹³

¹ The removal order shall indicate:

- a. the obligation of the asylum seeker to leave Switzerland;
- b. the time by which the asylum seeker must have left Switzerland; where temporary admission has been granted, the departure date is determined when the decision is made to revoke temporary admission;
- c. the coercive measures that apply in the event of non-compliance;
- d. if applicable, the designation of the states to which the asylum seeker may not be returned;
- e. if applicable, the ordering of an alternative measure instead of enforcing the removal order;
- f. the designation of the canton responsible for the enforcement of the removal order or the alternative measure.

² On issuing the removal order, an appropriate departure deadline of between seven and thirty days must be set. A longer period must be set or the departure deadline extended if special circumstances such as the family situation, health problems or a long period of stay so require.¹¹⁴

³ The removal order must be enforced immediately or a departure deadline of less than seven days may be set where the person concerned is being removed under the Dublin Association Agreements^{115, 116}

⁴ The asylum seeker must be provided with an information sheet with an explanation of the removal order.¹¹⁷

Art. 46 Enforcement by the cantons

¹ The canton of allocation is obliged to enforce the deportation order.¹¹⁸

¹¹² Inserted by No 12 of the Federal Act of 19 Dec. 2003 on the 2003 Budgetary Relief Programme (AS **2004** 1633; BBl **2003** 5615). Repealed by No 1 of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, with effect from 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

¹¹³ Amended by Art. 2 No 2 of the Federal Decree of 18 June 2010 on the Adoption of the EC Directive on the Return of Illegal Immigrants (Directive 2008/115/EC), in force since 1 Jan. 2011 (AS **2010** 5925; BBl **2009** 8881).

¹¹⁴ Amended by Art. 2 No 2 of the Federal Decree of 18 June 2010 on the Adoption of the EC Directive on the Return of Illegal Immigrants (Directive 2008/115/EC), in force since 1 Jan. 2011 (AS **2010** 5925; BBl **2009** 8881).

¹¹⁵ These Agreements are listed in Annex 1.

¹¹⁶ Inserted by Art. 2 No 2 of the Federal Decree of 18 June 2010 on the Adoption of the EC Directive on the Return of Illegal Immigrants (Directive 2008/115/EC), in force since 1 Jan. 2011 (AS **2010** 5925; BBl **2009** 8881).

¹¹⁷ Inserted by Art. 2 No 2 of the Federal Decree of 18 June 2010 on the Adoption of the EC Directive on the Return of Illegal Immigrants (Directive 2008/115/EC), in force since 1 Jan. 2011 (AS **2010** 5925; BBl **2009** 8881).

¹¹⁸ Amended by No 12 of the Federal Act of 19 Dec. 2003 on the 2003 Budgetary Relief Programme, in force since 1 April 2004 (AS **2004** 1633 1647; BBl **2003** 5615).

^{1bis} In the case of persons who in accordance with Article 27 paragraph 4 have not been allocated to a canton, the canton responsible for enforcing the removal order is the canton specified in the removal order in accordance with Article 45 paragraph 1 letter f. In designating the canton that is responsible for enforcing the removal order, the key for the allocation of asylum seekers to the cantons applies by analogy.¹¹⁹

² If enforcement proves impossible, the canton shall apply to the SEM for temporary admission to be granted.

Art. 47 Measures where the place of stay is unknown

If asylum seekers subject to a removal order avoid enforcement of the order by concealing their place of stay, the canton or the SEM may arrange for their registration in the police system for tracing missing persons.

Art. 48 Cantonal cooperation

If asylum seekers are not located in the canton responsible for the enforcing the removal order, the canton of stay shall provide administrative assistance on request. Administrative assistance includes in particular delivering the person concerned to the competent canton or deporting them directly.

Chapter 3: Granting of Asylum and Legal Status of Refugees

Section 1: Granting of Asylum

Art. 49 Principle

Asylum is granted to persons if they have refugee status and there are no grounds for denying asylum.

Art. 50 Country of second asylum

Refugees who have been admitted as such to another state may be granted asylum if they have resided in Switzerland in a law-abiding manner and without interruption for a minimum of two years.

Art. 51 Family asylum

¹ Spouses or registered partners of refugees and their minor children shall be recognised as refugees and granted asylum provided there are no special circumstances that preclude this.¹²⁰

¹¹⁹ Inserted by No 12 of the Federal Act of 19 Dec. 2003 on the 2003 Budgetary Relief Programme, in force since 1 April 2004 (AS **2004** 1633 1647; BBl **2003** 5615).

¹²⁰ Amended by No 3 of the Registered Partnership Act of 18 June 2004, in force since 1 Jan. 2007 (SR **211.231**).

^{1bis} If, during the asylum procedure, the SEM has reason to believe that there are grounds under Article 105 number 5 or 6 of the Civil Code¹²¹ (CC) for the marriage to be annulled, they shall report this to the competent authority under Article 106 CC. The procedure shall be suspended until this authority makes its decision. If the authority raises an action for annulment, the request is suspended until a legally binding judgment has been issued.¹²²

2 ...¹²³

³ Children born in Switzerland to refugee parents shall be recognised as refugees, provided if there are no special circumstances that preclude this.¹²⁴

⁴ If the persons entitled under paragraphs 1 were separated during flight and are now abroad, their entry must be authorised on request.¹²⁵

5 ...¹²⁶

Art. 52 Admission to a third country

1 ...¹²⁷

2 ...¹²⁸

Art. 53 Unworthiness of refugee status

Refugees shall not be granted asylum if they are unworthy of it due to serious misconduct or if they have violated or endanger Switzerland's internal or external security.

Art. 54 Subjective post-flight grounds

Refugees shall not be granted asylum if they became refugees in accordance with Article 3 only by leaving their native country or country of origin or due to their conduct after their departure.

¹²¹ SR 210

¹²² Inserted by No I 2 of the Federal Act of 15 June 2012 on Measures against Forced Marriages, in force since 1 July 2013 (AS 2013 1035; BBl 2011 2185).

¹²³ Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, with effect from 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

¹²⁴ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

¹²⁵ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

¹²⁶ Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, with effect from 1 Jan. 2007 (AS 2006 4745 4767; BBl 2002 6845).

¹²⁷ Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, with effect from 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

¹²⁸ Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 28 Sept 2012 (Emergency Amendments to the Asylum Act), with effect from 29 Sept. 2012 to 28 Sept. 2015 (AS 2012 5359; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325). See also the transitional provisions to this amendment at the end of the text.

Art. 55 Exceptional situations

¹ In times of increased international tension, in the event of the outbreak of an armed conflict in which Switzerland is not involved, or in the event of an exceptionally large influx of asylum seekers in times of peace, Switzerland shall grant asylum to refugees as long as the circumstances permit.

² The Federal Council shall take the required measures. It may, in derogation from the law, restrict the requirements for granting asylum and the legal status of the refugees and issue special procedural provisions. It shall submit a report on this to the Federal Assembly immediately.

³ If Switzerland's capacity to permanently accommodate refugees is exceeded, asylum may only be granted temporarily until those admitted are able to go elsewhere.

⁴ If it becomes apparent that a considerable number of refugees are coming to Switzerland, the Federal Council shall seek rapid and effective international cooperation with a view to their reallocation to other countries.

Section 2: Asylum for Groups**Art. 56** Decision

¹ A Federal Council decision is required for asylum to be granted to large groups of refugees. The Department shall decide in the case of smaller groups of refugees.

² The SEM shall determine who belongs to such a group.

Art. 57 Allocation and initial integration

¹ For the allocation of the refugees to the cantons, Article 27 applies.

² The Confederation may in the interests of initial integration temporarily allocate groups of refugees to accommodation and, in particular house them in an initial integration centre.

Section 3: Legal Status of Refugees**Art. 58** Principle

The legal status of refugees in Switzerland is governed by the law applicable to foreign nationals, unless special provisions, in particular of this Act and of the Convention of 28 July 1951¹²⁹ relating to the Status of Refugees, apply.

¹²⁹ SR 0.142.30

Art. 59 Effect

Persons to whom Switzerland has granted asylum or who have been temporarily admitted as refugees are deemed in their relations with all federal and cantonal authorities to be refugees within the meaning of this Act and the Convention of 28 July 1951¹³⁰ relating to the Status of Refugees.

Art. 60¹³¹ Regulation of stay

¹ Persons to whom asylum has been granted have the right to a residence permit in the canton in which they legally stay.

² The granting of a permanent residence permit is governed by Article 34 FNA^{132, 133}

Art. 61 Gainful employment

Persons to whom Switzerland has granted asylum or whom Switzerland has temporarily admitted as refugees shall be permitted to engage in gainful employment and to change job or profession.

Art. 62 Medical examinations

Persons to whom Switzerland has granted asylum shall be permitted to sit federal medical examinations; the Federal Department of Home Affairs shall determine the requirements.

Section 4: Termination of Asylum**Art. 63** Revocation

¹ The SEM shall revoke asylum or deprive a person of refugee status:

- a. if the foreign national concerned has fraudulently obtained asylum or refugee status by providing false information or by concealing essential facts;
- b. if any of the grounds stated in Article 1 letter C numbers 1–6 of the Convention of 28 July 1951¹³⁴ relating to the Status of Refugees apply.

² The SEM shall revoke asylum if a refugee has violated or represents a threat to Switzerland's internal or external security, or has committed a particularly serious criminal offence.

³ The revocation of asylum or the deprivation of refugee status applies in relation to all federal and cantonal authorities.

¹³⁰ SR **0.142.30**

¹³¹ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

¹³² SR **142.20**

¹³³ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

¹³⁴ SR **0.142.30**

⁴ The revocation of asylum or the deprivation of refugee status does not extend to the spouse or the children of the person concerned.¹³⁵

Art. 64 Expiry

¹ Asylum in Switzerland shall expire if:

- a.¹³⁶ the refugee has lived more than one year abroad;
- b. the refugee has been granted asylum or permission to stay permanently in another country;
- c. the refugee renounces their refugee status;
- d.¹³⁷ an order for removal or expulsion has been executed.

² The SEM may extend the deadline in accordance with paragraph 1 letter a under special circumstances.

³ Refugee status and asylum shall expire if the foreign national acquires Swiss nationality in accordance with Article 1 number C letter 3 of the Convention of 28 July 1951¹³⁸ relating to the Status of Refugees.¹³⁹

Art. 65¹⁴⁰ Removal or expulsion

Refugees may be expelled only if they endanger Switzerland's internal or external security or have seriously violated public order, subject to Article 5. The removal or expulsion of refugees is governed by Article 64 FNA¹⁴¹ in conjunction with Article 63 paragraph 1 letter b and Article 68 FNA. Article 5 is reserved.

¹³⁵ Amended by No 12 of the Federal Act of 15 June 2012 on Measures against Forced Marriages, in force since 1 July 2013 (AS **2013** 1035; BBl **2011** 2185).

¹³⁶ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

¹³⁷ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

¹³⁸ SR **0.142.30**

¹³⁹ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

¹⁴⁰ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

¹⁴¹ SR **142.20**

Chapter 4: Granting Temporary Protection and the Legal Status of Persons in Need of Protection

Section 1: General Provisions

Art. 66 Policy decision of the Federal Council

¹ The Federal Council shall decide whether and according to which criteria Switzerland will grant temporary protection to groups of persons in need of protection in accordance with Article 4.

² Before doing so, it shall consult representatives of the cantons, the charitable organisations and if need be additional non-governmental organisations as well as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Art. 67 Foreign policy measures

¹ The granting of temporary protection as well as measures and assistance in the native country or country of origin or in the region of origin of the persons in need of protection should complement one another as far as possible.

² The Confederation shall work with the native country or country of origin, other host countries and international organisations to create the conditions for the safe return of the persons in need of protection.

Section 2: Procedure

Art. 68 Persons in need of protection abroad

¹ The SEM shall define the group of persons in need of protection in detail and decide who will be granted temporary protection in Switzerland. In doing so, it shall take account of the principle of family unity.

² The decision on granting temporary protection may only be contested on the grounds that it violates the principle of family unity.

³ ...¹⁴²

Art. 69 Persons in need of protection at the border or in Switzerland

¹ Articles 18 and 19 and 21–24 apply by analogy to applications filed at the border or in Switzerland by persons in need of protection.

² If there is no obvious persecution in terms of Article 3, the SEM shall, following questioning at the reception and processing centre in accordance with Article 26,

¹⁴² Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 28 Sept 2012 (Emergency Amendments to the Asylum Act), with effect from 29 Sept. 2012 to 28 Sept. 2015 (AS **2012** 5359; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325). See also the transitional provisions to this amendment at the end of the text.

determine who belongs to a group of persons in need of protection and who will be granted temporary protection in Switzerland. There is no appeal against the decision on whether to grant temporary protection.

³ If a person is granted temporary protection, the procedure for any application for recognition as a refugee shall be suspended.

⁴ If the SEM intends to refuse temporary protection, it shall continue the procedure for recognition as a refugee or the removal proceedings immediately.

Art. 70 Resumption of the procedure for recognition as a refugee

Persons in need of protection who have filed an application for recognition as a refugee may request the resumption of the procedure for recognition as a refugee at the earliest five years following the decision to suspend the procedure in accordance with Article 69 paragraph 3. On the resumption of this procedure, temporary protection shall be revoked.

Art. 71 Granting temporary protection to families

¹ Spouses of persons in need of protection and their minor children shall be granted temporary protection if:¹⁴³

- a. they apply for protection together and there are no grounds for rejection in terms of Article 73;
- b. the family was separated by events such as those cited in Article 4, wishes to be reunited in Switzerland and there are no special circumstances that preclude this.

^{1bis} If, during the procedure to grant temporary protection, the SEM has reason to believe that there are grounds under Article 105 number 5 or 6 CC¹⁴⁴ for the marriage to be annulled, they shall report this to the competent authority under Article 106 CC. The request for reunification shall be suspended until this authority makes its decision. If the authority raises an action for annulment, the request is suspended until a legally binding judgment has been issued.¹⁴⁵

² Children born in Switzerland to persons in need of protection shall also be granted temporary protection.

³ If the persons entitled to protection are abroad, their entry must be authorised.

⁴ The Federal Council shall regulate the requirements for family reunion in Switzerland in other cases.

¹⁴³ Amended by No I 2 of the Federal Act of 15 June 2012 on Measures against Forced-Marriages, in force since 1 July 2013 (AS **2013** 1035; BBl **2011** 2185).

¹⁴⁴ SR **210**

¹⁴⁵ Inserted by No I 2 of the Federal Act of 15 June 2012 on Measures against Forced Marriages, in force since 1 July 2013 (AS **2013** 1035; BBl **2011** 2185).

Art. 72 Procedure

In addition, the provisions of Sections 1 and 3 of Chapter 2 apply by analogy to the procedure in accordance with Articles 68, 69 and 71¹⁴⁶.

Art. 73 Grounds for rejection

Temporary protection shall not be granted if the person in need of protection has committed an act falling within the terms of Article 53 or has violated or is a serious threat to public security.

Section 3: Legal Status**Art. 74** Regulation of stay

¹ Persons in need of protection shall reside in the canton to which they have been allocated.

² If the federal council has not yet revoked temporary protection within five years, the persons in need of protection shall receive from this canton a residence permit limited until the revocation of temporary protection.

³ Ten years after the granting of temporary protection, the canton may grant persons in need of protection a permanent residence permit.

Art. 75 Authorisation to engage in gainful employment

¹ For the first three months after entry into Switzerland, persons in need of protection may not engage in gainful employment. Thereafter, the requirements for authorisation to engage in gainful employment are governed by the FNA^{147,148}

² The Federal Council may stipulate more favourable conditions for gainful employment.

³ Work permits already issued shall remain valid.

⁴ Persons in need of protection who are entitled to pursue gainful employment in accordance with provisions laid down by the immigration authorities or who participate in charitable occupational programmes are not subject to the ban on working.

¹⁴⁶ Amended by the drafting committee of the Federal Assembly [Art. 33 Parliamentary Procedure Act – AS 1974 1051].

¹⁴⁷ SR 142.20

¹⁴⁸ Amended of the second sentence in accordance with Annex No II 1 of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005 on Foreign Nationals, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (SR 142.20).

Section 4: Termination of the Temporary Protection and Return

Art. 76 Withdrawal of temporary protection and removal

¹ After consultation with representatives of the cantons, the charitable organisations and, if required, other non-governmental organisations, the Office of the United High Commissioner for Refugees as well as with international organisations, the Federal Council shall determine when the temporary protection for certain groups of persons in need of protection will be withdrawn; it shall make the decision in a general ruling.

² The SEM shall grant the persons affected by the decision in accordance with paragraph 1 the right to a hearing.

³ If as a result of the hearing, indications of persecution are revealed, a further hearing shall take place in accordance with Article 29.¹⁴⁹

⁴ If, having been granted the right to a hearing, the person concerned does not express his or her views, the SEM shall issue a removal order. For the enforcement of the removal order, Articles 10 paragraph 4 and 46–48 of this Act as well as Article 71 of the FNA¹⁵⁰ apply by analogy.¹⁵¹

Art. 77 Return

The Confederation shall support international efforts to organise the return of persons in need of protection.

Art. 78 Revocation

¹ The SEM may revoke temporary protection if:

- a. it has been fraudulently obtained by providing false information or by concealing essential facts;
- b. the person in need of protection has violated or endangered Switzerland's internal or external security or is guilty of serious misconduct;
- c. since being granted temporary protection, the person in need of protection has resided repeatedly or for an extended period of time in their native country or country of origin;
- d. the person in need of protection has a legal right of residence in a third country where they may return.

² Temporary protection shall not be revoked if the person in need of protection travels to their native country or country of origin with the consent of the competent authorities.

¹⁴⁹ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

¹⁵⁰ SR 142.20

¹⁵¹ Amended by Annex No II 1 of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005 of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005 on Foreign Nationals, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (SR 142.20).

³ The revocation of temporary protection does not extend to the spouse and the children, unless it is shown they are not in need of protection.¹⁵²

⁴ If it is intended to revoke temporary protection, a hearing shall normally take place in accordance with Articles 29 and 30.

Art. 79¹⁵³ Expiry

Temporary protection expires if the person in need of protection transfers the focus of their living conditions abroad, renounces temporary protection or has received a permanent residence permit in accordance with the FNA¹⁵⁴.

Art. 79a¹⁵⁵ Registered partnership

The provisions of Chapters 3 and 4 on spouses apply *mutatis mutandis* to registered partnerships of same-sex couples.

Chapter 5: Social Assistance and Emergency Aid¹⁵⁶

Section 1:

Payment of Social Benefits, Emergency Aid and Child Allowances¹⁵⁷

Art. 80¹⁵⁸ Responsibility

¹ The cantons of allocation shall provide social assistance or emergency aid for persons staying in Switzerland on the basis of this Act. Persons who have not been allocated to a canton shall be granted emergency aid by the canton that has been designated responsible for enforcing removal. The cantons may delegate the fulfilment of this task entirely or in part to third parties, and in particular to the charitable organisations authorised in accordance with Article 30 paragraph 2.

² As long as these persons are staying in a reception and processing centre or in an integration centre for groups of refugees, the Confederation shall provide social assistance. It may delegate all or part of this task to third parties. Article 82a applies *mutatis mutandis* to healthcare provision.¹⁵⁹

¹⁵² Amended by No I 2 of the Federal Act of 15 June 2012 on Measures against Forced Marriages, in force since 1 July 2013 (AS **2013** 1035; BBl **2011** 2185).

¹⁵³ Amended by Annex No II 1 of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005 of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005 on Foreign Nationals, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (SR **142.20**).

¹⁵⁴ SR **142.20**

¹⁵⁵ Inserted by No I 2 of the Federal Act of 15 June 2012 on Measures against Forced Marriages, in force since 1 July 2013 (AS **2013** 1035; BBl **2011** 2185).

¹⁵⁶ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

¹⁵⁷ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

¹⁵⁸ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

¹⁵⁹ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

Art. 81¹⁶⁰ Right to social benefits or to emergency aid

Persons who are staying in Switzerland on the basis of this Act and who are unable to maintain themselves from their own resources shall receive the necessary social benefits unless third parties are required to support them on the basis of a statutory or contractual obligation, or may request emergency aid.

Art. 82¹⁶¹ Social benefits and emergency aid

¹ The payment of social benefits and emergency aid is regulated by cantonal law. Persons subject to a legally binding removal decision for which a departure deadline has been fixed are excluded from receiving social assistance.¹⁶²

² For the duration of an extraordinary appeal or asylum proceedings under Article 111c, persons under paragraph 1 and asylum seekers shall on application receive emergency aid. This is also the case if enforcement of the removal order is suspended.¹⁶³

³ For asylum seekers and persons in need of protection who do not hold a residence permit, support shall be provided in the form of non-cash benefits wherever possible. The level of support is less than that given to the local population.¹⁶⁴

⁴ Emergency aid must wherever possible be provided in the form of non-cash benefits at the locations indicated by the cantons or the Confederation. The level of support is less than that of the social assistance paid to asylum seekers and persons in need of protection who do not have a residence permit.¹⁶⁵

⁵ The special situation of refugees and persons in need of protection who have a right to a residence permit must be taken into account in determining the level of support; in particular professional, social and cultural integration shall be facilitated.

Art. 82a¹⁶⁶ Health insurance for asylum seekers and persons in need of protection without a residence permit

¹ Health insurance for asylum seekers and persons in need of protection without a residence permit must be arranged in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Act of 18 March 1994¹⁶⁷ on Health Insurance (HIA), subject to the following provisions.

¹⁶⁰ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

¹⁶¹ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

¹⁶² Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

¹⁶³ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

¹⁶⁴ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

¹⁶⁵ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

¹⁶⁶ Inserted by No II of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4823, **2007** 5575; BBl **2002** 6845).

¹⁶⁷ SR **832.10**

² The cantons may limit the choice of insurers for asylum seekers and persons in need of protection without a residence permit and may specify one or more insurers who offer a special form of insurance in accordance with Article 41 paragraph 4 HIA.

³ They may limit the choice of service providers for asylum seekers and persons in need of protection without a residence permit in accordance with Articles 36–40 HIA. They may do this before designating an insurer in terms of paragraph 2.

⁴ They may limit the choice for asylum seekers and persons in need of protection without a residence permit designate to one or more insurers who offer insurance with a limited selection of service providers in terms of Article 41 paragraph 4 HIA.

⁵ The Federal Council shall regulate the details of the limitation of the choice of the service providers.

⁶ The cantons and the insurers may agree to dispense with cost sharing in accordance with Article 64 paragraph 2 HIA.

⁷ As long as asylum seekers and persons in need of protection without a residence permit are reliant solely or partly on social assistance, their right to premium reductions in accordance with Article 65 HIA shall be suspended. This right shall revive respectively when the asylum seekers are recognised as refugees, the persons in need of protection are entitled to a residence permit, or the persons are no longer in receipt of social assistance.

Art. 83 Restrictions of social benefits¹⁶⁸

¹ Social benefits or reduced benefits under Article 82 paragraph 3 must be completely or partially refused, reduced or withdrawn if the beneficiary:¹⁶⁹

- a. has obtained them or attempted to obtain them by providing untrue or incomplete information;
- b. refuses to give the competent office information about their financial circumstances, or fails to authorise the office to obtain this information;
- c. does not report important changes in their circumstances;
- d. obviously neglects to improve their situation, in particular by refusing to accept reasonable work or accommodation allocated to them;
- e. without consulting the competent office, terminates an employment contract or lease or is responsible for its termination and thereby exacerbates their situation;
- f. uses social benefits improperly;
- g. fails to comply with the instructions of the competent office despite the threat of the withdrawal of social benefits.

¹⁶⁸ Expression in accordance with No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845). This amendment has been made throughout the text.

¹⁶⁹ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

- h.¹⁷⁰ endangers public security or order;
- i.¹⁷¹ has been prosecuted or convicted of a crime;
- j.¹⁷² seriously and culpably fails to cooperate, in particular by refusing to disclose their identity;
- k.¹⁷³ fails to comply with the instructions from staff responsible for the proceedings or from the accommodation facilities, thereby endangering order and security.

^{1bis} Paragraph 1 only applies to refugees subject to the guarantee that they are treated the same way as the local population.¹⁷⁴

² Social benefits unlawfully received must be paid back in full. The amount due for repayment may in particular be deducted from future social benefits. The canton shall implement the claim for repayment. Article 85 paragraph 3 applies.¹⁷⁵

Art. 83a¹⁷⁶ Requirements for the payment of emergency aid

The person concerned must cooperate in the enforcement of a legally binding removal order that is lawful, reasonable and feasible as well as in the determination of whether the requirements for emergency aid are fulfilled.

Art. 84¹⁷⁷ Child allowances

Child allowances for asylum seekers' children living abroad shall be withheld during asylum procedures. They shall be paid when the asylum seeker is recognised as a refugee or temporarily admitted in accordance with Article 83 paragraphs 3 and 4 of the FNA¹⁷⁸.

¹⁷⁰ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

¹⁷¹ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

¹⁷² Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

¹⁷³ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

¹⁷⁴ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

¹⁷⁵ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

¹⁷⁶ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

¹⁷⁷ Amended by No IV 1 of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

¹⁷⁸ SR **142.20**

Section 2: Duty to Reimburse and Special Charge¹⁷⁹

Art. 85 Duty to reimburse

¹ As far as it is reasonable, social assistance¹⁸⁰, departure and enforcement costs as well as the costs of the appeal procedure must be reimbursed.

² The Confederation shall enforce the claim for reimbursement. The FDJP may delegate this task to the cantons.

³ The right to reimbursement prescribes one year after the competent authority has been informed, but in any case 10 years after its creation. No interest is charged on reimbursement claims.¹⁸¹

⁴ The Federal Council shall regulate the details and the exceptions to the duty to reimburse.¹⁸²

Art. 86¹⁸³ Special charge

¹ Asylum seekers and persons in need of protection without a residence permit who are gainfully employed must reimburse the costs mentioned in Article 85 paragraph 1 (special charge). The special charge serves to cover the overall costs generated by all these gainfully employed persons and their dependents. The cantonal authority shall make authorisation to engage in a gainful economic activity subject to a corresponding condition.

² The special charge may not amount to more than 10 per cent of the earned income of the person concerned. It shall be deducted directly from the earned income of the person concerned by the employer and transferred to the Confederation.

³ The duty to pay a special charge applies for a maximum of ten years from the first time the person concerned accepts gainful employment.

⁴ The Federal Council shall regulate the details. In particular, it shall determine the rate of the special charge and shall issue regulations on the payment and collection procedures. It may in particular refrain from imposing the duty to pay a special charge in the case of persons whose earned income is especially low.

⁵ The Confederation may delegate incidental tasks in connection with the collection of the special charge to third parties.

¹⁷⁹ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

¹⁸⁰ Expression in accordance with No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

¹⁸¹ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

¹⁸² Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

¹⁸³ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

Art. 87¹⁸⁴ Confiscation of assets

¹ Asylum seekers and persons in need of protection without a residence permit must disclose their assets that are not derived from their earned income.

² The competent authorities may confiscate such assets for the purposes of reimbursing the costs mentioned in Article 85 paragraph 1 if the asylum seekers or persons in need of protection without a residence permit:

- a. cannot prove that the assets derive from earned income or compensation for loss of earned income or from public social benefits;
- b. cannot prove the origin of the assets; or
- c. can prove the origin of the assets, but these exceed the amount determined by the Federal Council.

³ The Federal Council shall determine the extent to which the confiscated assets may be used to pay the special charge.

⁴ If there is no longer a duty to pay the special charge, assets may no longer be confiscated.

⁵ Confiscated assets shall be reimbursed in full on request if the asylum seeker or person in need of protection leaves the country under supervision within seven months of filing the application for asylum or the application for temporary protection.

Chapter 6: Federal Subsidies**Art. 88**¹⁸⁵ Flat-rate compensatory payments

¹ The Confederation shall compensate the cantons for the costs of implementing this Act by means of flat-rate payments. The cantons do not receive the subsidies in accordance with Articles 91–93.

² The flat-rate payments made in respect of persons seeking asylum and in need of protection without a residence permit shall cover, in particular, the costs of social assistance and of mandatory health insurance and also contain a contribution towards the supervision costs.

³ The flat-rate payments made in respect of refugees and persons in need of protection with a residence permit shall cover, in particular, the costs of social assistance and also contain a contribution towards the supervision and administrative costs. They shall be made for a maximum of five years from the date of submission of the asylum application.¹⁸⁶

¹⁸⁴ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

¹⁸⁵ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

¹⁸⁶ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

⁴ Payments made in respect of persons who are only entitled to emergency aid under Article 82 are compensation for granting emergency aid.¹⁸⁷

⁵ ...¹⁸⁸

Art. 89¹⁸⁹ Determination of the flat-rate payments

¹ The Federal Council shall determine the level of the flat-rate payments based on the probable expenditures on cost-effective solutions.

² It shall determine the structure and the duration of the flat-rate payments as well as the necessary requirements. It may in particular:

- a. determine the flat-rate payments on the basis of residence status and the duration of residence;
- b. adjust the flat-rate payments to take account of the cost differences between the cantons.

³ The SEM may make the disbursement of individual components of the flat-rate payments subject to the achievement of socio-political goals.

⁴ The flat-rate payments shall be periodically adjusted in line with inflation and reviewed if necessary.

Art. 89a¹⁹⁰ Duty to cooperate for recipients of subsidies

¹ The SEM may require the cantons to collect the data required for financial supervision, determining and adjusting the financial compensatory payments from the Confederation under Articles 88 and 91 paragraph 2^{bis} of this Act and 55 and 87 of the FNA¹⁹¹ and to make it available to the SEM or record it in the SEM's Central Migration Information System (ZEMIS).

² If a canton fails to comply with this requirement, the SEM may reduce the financial compensatory payments made to this canton or determine the payments due on the basis of the data available.

Art. 90 Funding of collective accommodation

¹ The Confederation may finance, in full or in part, the construction, conversion and furnishing of collective accommodation in which the authorities place persons residing in Switzerland on the basis of this Act.

¹⁸⁷ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

¹⁸⁸ Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, with effect from 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

¹⁸⁹ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

¹⁹⁰ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

¹⁹¹ SR 142.20

² The Federal Council shall regulate the procedure, determine the details on ownership and ensure the accommodation is used for its intended purpose.

³ It shall determine the extent to which the amount spent on direct funding by the Confederation on accommodation is charged against the flat-rate payment.

Art. 91 Further subsidies

¹ and ²...¹⁹²

^{2bis} The Confederation shall pay the cantons a flat-rate subsidy towards the administrative costs incurred in respect of persons seeking asylum and persons in need of protection without a residence permit.¹⁹³

^{2ter} The Confederation may pay cantons in which a reception and processing centre or a special centre under Article 26 paragraph 1^{bis} is located a flat-rate subsidy towards the security costs.¹⁹⁴

³ It may pay subsidies to facilities for traumatised persons residing in Switzerland on the basis of this Act.

⁴ ...¹⁹⁵

^{4bis} It may pay subsidies for the conduct of employment programmes for persons accommodated in federal reception and processing centres or in special centres under Article 26 paragraph 1^{bis}. For this purpose it shall enter into public service agreements with the cantons, communes or responsible third parties at the relevant locations.¹⁹⁶

⁵ ...¹⁹⁷

⁶ The Confederation shall reimburse the cantons for staff costs which arise in connection with the preparation of decisions in accordance with Article 31.

⁷ It may in terms of the international cooperation in accordance with Article 113 provide subsidies to the bodies funding internationally oriented projects or to internationally active organisations.

⁸ The Federal Council shall regulate the requirements and the payment and the accounting procedures for the contributions.

¹⁹² Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, with effect from 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

¹⁹³ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

¹⁹⁴ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 28 Sept 2012 (Emergency Amendments to the Asylum Act), in force from 29 Sept. 2012 to 28 Sept. 2015 (AS **2012** 5359; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

¹⁹⁵ Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, with effect from 1 Jan. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

¹⁹⁶ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 28 Sept 2012 (Emergency Amendments to the Asylum Act), in force from 29 Sept. 2012 to 28 Sept. 2015 (AS **2012** 5359; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

¹⁹⁷ Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, with effect from 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

Art. 92 Entry and departure costs

¹ The Confederation may bear the costs for the entry and departure of refugees and persons in need of protection.

² If the persons concerned are destitute, it shall bear the costs for the departure of asylum seekers, of persons whose application for asylum was rejected, whose application for asylum was dismissed or who withdrew their application for asylum, and of persons who were removed following the revocation of temporary protection.¹⁹⁸

³ It may make provide subsidies towards expenditure incurred by the cantons that is directly connected with the organisation of departure.

⁴ The Federal Council shall regulate the requirements and the payment and accounting procedure for the contributions. If possible it shall determine flat-rate payments.

Art. 93¹⁹⁹ Return assistance and prevention of irregular migration

¹ The Confederation shall provide return assistance. For this purpose, it may provide for the following measures:

- a. the full or partial funding of return counselling services;
- b. the full or partial funding of projects in Switzerland to preserve the ability of those concerned to return;
- c. the full or partial funding of programmes in the native country, country of origin or a third country to facilitate and arrange the return, repatriation and reintegration (programmes abroad);
- d. the granting of financial support in individual cases to facilitate the reintegration of returnees or provide them with temporary medical care in their native country, country of origin or third country.

² Programmes abroad may also pursue the goal of contributing to the prevention of irregular migration. Irregular migration prevention programmes are those that contribute in the short term to limiting the risk of primary or secondary migration to Switzerland.

³ For the purpose of implementing return assistance, the Confederation may work with international organisations and set up a coordination office.

⁴ The Federal Council shall regulate the requirements and the payment and the accounting procedure for the subsidies.

Art. 94 Contributions to charitable organisations

¹ The Confederation may make contributions to the administrative costs of an umbrella organisation for the approved charitable organisations.

¹⁹⁸ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

¹⁹⁹ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

² The approved charitable organisations shall be compensated by means of a flat rate payment for their participation in the hearings in accordance with Article 30.

³ The Federal Council shall determine the level of the contributions in accordance with paragraph 1 and the flat-rate payment in accordance with paragraph 2.

Art. 95²⁰⁰ Supervision

¹ The Confederation shall verify that federal subsidies are used in accordance with the legislation on subsidies, that they are effective and that accounts on federal subsidies are properly maintained. It may also delegate this task to a third party and call in the cantonal audit offices for support.

² Any person who receives federal subsidies is obliged to disclose the details of their organisation as well as the data and key figures in relation to income and expenditure in the field of asylum.

³ The Federal Audit Office, the SEM and the cantonal audit offices shall monitor financial activities in accordance with their regulations. They shall determine the suitable course of action, coordinate their activities and keep each other informed about their findings.

Chapter 7: Processing of Personal Data

Section 1: Principles²⁰¹

Art. 96²⁰² Processing of personal data

¹ Provided they require the data for the fulfilment of their legal duties, the SEM, the appeal authorities and private organisations entrusted with duties under this Act may process or have processed the personal data of persons seeking asylum or in need of protection and their dependants, and in particular sensitive data or personality profiles as defined in Article 3 letters c and d of the Federal Act of 19 June 1992²⁰³ on Data Protection.

² Data required to combat illegal employment may be disclosed by the authorities under paragraph 1 in accordance with Articles 11 and 12 of the Federal Act of 17 June 2005²⁰⁴ on Measures to Combat Illegal Employment.²⁰⁵

²⁰⁰ Amended by No 1 of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

²⁰¹ Inserted by Art. 3 No 2 of the Federal Decree of 17 Dec. 2004 on the Approval and the Implementation of the Bilateral Agreements between Switzerland and the EU on Association with Schengen and Dublin, in force since 12 Dec. 2008 (SR **362**; AS **2008** 5405 Art. 1 let. a).

²⁰² Amended by Art. 3 No 2 of the Federal Decree of 17 Dec. 2004 on the Approval and the Implementation of the Bilateral Agreements between Switzerland and the EU on Association with Schengen and Dublin, in force since 12 Dec. 2008 (SR **362**; AS **2008** 5405 Art. 1 let. a).

²⁰³ SR **235.1**

²⁰⁴ SR **822.41**

Art. 97 Disclosure of personal data to the native country or country of origin

¹ Personal data of asylum seekers, recognised refugees and persons in need of protection may not be disclosed to their native country or country of origin if the person concerned or their dependants would be endangered as a result. No information may be disclosed regarding an application for asylum.²⁰⁶

² The authority responsible for the organising departure may contact the native country or the country of origin to acquire the travel documents required for the enforcement of the removal order if the refugee status has been refused in the first instance.²⁰⁷

³ For the enforcement of removal to the native country or the country of origin, the authorities responsible for organising departure may disclose the following data to the foreign authority:

- a. personal details (name, first name, aliases, date of birth, place of birth, gender, nationality, last address in the native country or the country of origin) of the person concerned and, as far as necessary for their identification, of dependants;
- b. information about the passport or other identity papers;
- c. fingerprints, photographs and further biometric data if necessary;
- d. further data from documents that help identify a person;
- e. information on the state of health, insofar as this is in the interest of the person concerned;
- f. the data required to guarantee the returnee's entry to the destination country and to ensure the security of the accompanying persons;
- g. information on criminal proceedings in the specific cases where this is required for the readmission procedure and to safeguard public security and order in the native country, and the person concerned will not be endangered thereby; Article 2 of the Mutual Assistance Act of 20 March 1981²⁰⁸ applies by analogy.²⁰⁹

Art. 98 Disclosure of personal data to third countries and international organisations

¹ In order to implement this Act, the SEM and the appeal authorities may disclose personal data to foreign authorities and international organisations entrusted

²⁰⁵ Inserted by Annex No 2 of the Federal Act of 17 June 2005 on Measures to Combat Illegal Employment, in force since 1. Jan. 2008 (AS **2007** 359; BBl **2002** 3605).

²⁰⁶ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2007 (AS **2006** 4745 4767; BBl **2002** 6845).

²⁰⁷ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2007 (AS **2006** 4745 4767; BBl **2002** 6845).

²⁰⁸ SR **351.1**

²⁰⁹ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

with corresponding tasks if the state or the international organisation concerned guarantees an equivalent level of protection of the data transmitted.

² The following personal data may be disclosed:

- a. personal details (name, first name, alias names, date of birth, place of birth, gender, nationality, last address in the native country or the country of origin) of the person concerned and, as far as necessary for their identification, of dependants;
- b. information about the passport or other identity papers;
- c. fingerprints, photographs and further biometric data if necessary;
- d. further data from documents that help identify a person;
- e. information on the state of health, insofar as this is in the interest of the person concerned;
- f. the data required to guarantee the returnee's entry to the destination country and to ensure the security of the accompanying persons;
- g. information on the place of stay and travel routes;
- h. information on permission to stay and visas granted;
- i. information on an application for asylum (place and date the filing, status of the procedure, summary details of the content of a decision made).²¹⁰

Art. 98a²¹¹ Cooperation with the prosecution authorities

The SEM or the Federal Administrative Court shall transmit to the responsible prosecution authorities information and evidence on asylum seekers where there are serious grounds for suspicion that they have committed a felony under international law, in particular a felony against peace, a war crime, a crime against humanity, genocide or torture.

Art. 98b²¹² Biometric data

¹ The competent authorities may process biometric data for the purpose of establishing the identity of asylum seekers and persons in need of protection.

^{1bis} The SEM may delegate the processing of biometric data to third parties. It shall verify the compliance by the third parties with the regulations on data protection and information security.²¹³

²¹⁰ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

²¹¹ Inserted by No 13 of the Ordinance of the Federal Assembly of 20 Dec. 2006 on the Amendment of Legislation in accordance with the Provisions on the Federal Supreme Court Act and the Federal Administrative Court Act, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 5599, 2007 5573; BBl 2006 7759).

²¹² Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

² The Federal Council shall determine what biometric data is collected and regulate access to the data.

Art. 99 Taking and evaluating fingerprints

¹ Fingerprints of all fingers as well as photographs shall be taken of asylum seekers and persons in need of protection. The Federal Council may provide for exceptions in the case of minors under the age of 14.²¹⁴

² The fingerprints and photographs shall be stored without the corresponding personal details in database managed by the Federal Office of Police and the SEM.²¹⁵

³ The new fingerprints shall be compared with the fingerprint database managed by the Federal Office of Police.²¹⁶

⁴ If the Federal Office of Police determines a match with existing fingerprints, it shall inform the SEM, the cantonal police authorities concerned and the Frontier Guards Corps and provide them with the personal details of the person concerned (name, first name, aliases, date of birth, sex, reference number, personal number, nationality, process control number and canton of allocation). Where there is a police report, the date, place and reason for taking the fingerprints contained therein shall also be provided in code form.²¹⁷

⁵ The SEM shall use this information to:

- a. check the identity the person concerned;
- b. check whether the person concerned has already applied for asylum before;
- c. check whether there is data that confirms or refutes the statements made by the person concerned;
- d. check whether there is data that call into question the eligibility of the person concerned to be granted asylum;
- e. facilitate administrative assistance between the SEM and the police authorities.

⁶ The personal data transmitted in accordance with paragraph 4 may not be disclosed abroad without the consent of the owner of the data collection. Article 6 paragraph 1 of the Federal Act of 19 June 1992²¹⁸ on Data Protection applies by analogy.

⁷ The data shall be erased:

²¹³ Inserted by Annex No 1 of the Federal Act of 13 June 2008 (Amendments in implementation of the Schengen and Dublin Association Agreements), in force since 12 Dec. 2008 (AS **2008** 5407 5405 Art. 2 let. c; BBl **2007** 7937).

²¹⁴ Amended by Art. 3 No 2 of the Federal Decree of 17 Dec. 2004, in force since 12 Dec. 2008 (SR **362**; AS **2008** 5405; BBl **2004** 5965).

²¹⁵ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

²¹⁶ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

²¹⁷ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

²¹⁸ SR **235.1**

- a. if asylum is granted;
- b. at the latest ten years after the legally binding rejection, withdrawal or abandonment of the application for asylum or after a decision to dismiss the application;
- c.²¹⁹ in the case of persons in need of protection, at the latest ten years after the lifting of the temporary protection.

Section 1a.:²²⁰

Information System for Reception and Procedure Centres and Airport Accommodation

Art. 99a Principles

¹ The SEM shall operate an information system for reception and procedure centres and airport accommodation (MIDES).

² MIDES serves as an aid in:

- a. the processing of personal data relating to asylum seekers and persons in need of protection, including sensitive personal data and personality profiles in accordance with Article 3 letters c and d of the Federal Act of 19 June 1992²²¹ on Data Protection; and
- b. audits, the conduct of asylum procedures and the planning and organisation of accommodation.

³ MIDES contains the following personal data:

- a. data on the identity of the registered persons, and in particular their surname, name, sex, date and place of birth, nationality, ethnic origin, religion, marital status, address and parents' names;
- b. minutes of the summary interviews conducted at the reception and procedure centres and at the airports in accordance with Articles 22 paragraph 1 and 26 paragraph 2;
- c. biometric data;
- d. details of the accommodation;
- e. the status of the proceedings.

⁴ The personal data in accordance with paragraph 3 letters a and e shall be entered in the Central Migration Information System (ZEMIS).

²¹⁹ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

²²⁰ Inserted by the Annex to the Federal Act of 18 June 2010 (Automated Border Controls, Documentation Advisers, MIDES Information System), in force since 1 Jan. 2011 (AS 2010 5755; BBl 2009 8881).

²²¹ SR 235.1

⁵ The asylum seekers and persons in need of protection must in particular be informed of the reasons for processing the data and the categories of data recipient.

Art. 99b Data processing in MIDES

The following persons have access to MIDES provided such access is required in order to fulfil their duties:

- a. employees of the SEM;
- b. authorities in accordance with Article 22 paragraph 1;
- c. authorised third parties in accordance with Article 99c.

Art. 99c Authorised third parties

¹ The SEM may authorise third parties who are responsible for procuring biometric data, ensuring security or for administration and care in reception and procedure centres and airport accommodation to process personal data in accordance with Article 99a paragraph 3 letters a, c and d in MIDES.

² The SEM shall ensure that authorised third parties comply with the applicable regulations on data protection and information technology security.

Art. 99d Supervision and implementation

¹ The SEM is responsible for the security of MIDES and the legality of the processing of personal data.

² The Federal Council shall regulate:

- a. the organisation and operation of MIDES;
- b. the catalogue of personal data to be processed;
- c. rights of access;
- d. technical and organisational protective measures against unauthorised processing;
- e. the length of time that data may be stored;
- f. the archiving and destruction of data on expiry of the storage period.

Section 1b.: Other Information Systems²²²

Art. 100²²³ Information system of the appeal authorities²²⁴

¹ The appeal authorities shall maintain an information system to record appeals that have been filed, for the conduct of audits and to compile statistics.

² These information systems may contain personal data and personality profiles especially worthy of protection if this is necessary for the fulfilment of the statutory task.

^{2bis} Incorrect data must be corrected by the authorities. If the incorrect data is attributed to a person's violation of the duty to cooperate, this person may be billed for the costs for the correction.²²⁵

Art. 101²²⁶

Art. 102 Information and documentation system

¹ The SEM shall manage an automated information and documentation system in cooperation with the Federal Administrative Court. The system shall contain factual information and documentation from the sphere of responsibilities of the SEM and the Federal Administrative Court stored in various databases. If required, personal data contained in the texts may also be stored, in particular personal details, as well as particularly sensitive personal data and personality profiles.²²⁷

² Only employees of the SEM and the Federal Administrative Court shall have access to databases containing particularly sensitive personal data and personality profiles.²²⁸

³ Databases containing predominantly factual information drawn from public sources may be made accessible to external users on request by means of a retrieval procedure.

⁴ The Federal Council shall regulate the details, and in particular access to the system and the protection of the personal data collected therein.

²²² Inserted by the Annex to the Federal Act of 18 June 2010 (Automated Border Controls, Documentation Advisers, MIDES Information System), in force since 1 Jan. 2011 (AS 2010 5755; BBl 2009 8881).

²²³ Amended by Art. 18 No 2 of the Federal Act of 20 June 2003 on the Information System on Asylum and Foreign Nationals, in force since 29 May 2006 (SR 142.51).

²²⁴ Amended by the Annex to the Federal Act of 18 June 2010 (Automated Border Controls, Documentation Advisers, MIDES Information System), in force since 1 Jan. 2011 (AS 2010 5755; BBl 2009 8881).

²²⁵ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

²²⁶ Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, with effect from 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

²²⁷ Amended by No 4 of the Federal Administrative Court Act of 17 June 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2007 (SR 173.32).

²²⁸ Amended by No 4 of the Federal Administrative Court Act of 17 June 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2007 (SR 173.32).

Art. 102a²²⁹ Statistics on recipients of social assistance

For the taxation of the financial compensatory payments to the cantons, the Federal Statistical Office shall periodically transmit anonymised and aggregated data on the persons seeking asylum who draw benefits from public social assistance to the SEM.

Section 2:²³⁰**Data Processing under the Dublin Association Agreements****Art. 102a^{bis}** Eurodac

¹ Within the framework of the application of the Dublin Association Agreements ²³¹ the SEM is responsible for dealings with the Central Unit of the Eurodac System.

² It shall transmit the following data to the Central Unit:

- a. the place and date of the application in Switzerland;
- b. the sex of the applicant;
- c. the fingerprints taken in accordance with Article 99 paragraph 1;
- d. the Swiss code number for the fingerprints;
- e. the date on which the fingerprints were taken;
- f. the date on which the data was transmitted to the Central Unit.

³ The transmitted data shall be stored in the Eurodac database and compared with the data already stored in this database. The result of the comparison shall be communicated to the SEM.

⁴ The data shall be automatically erased by the Central Unit ten years after the fingerprints were taken. If a person whose data has been transmitted by Switzerland to the Eurodac database is granted citizenship of a state bound by one of the Dublin Association Agreements before the expiry of this period, the SEM, as soon as it has been notified of this fact, shall request the Central Unit to erase the data immediately.

²²⁹ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006 4745**, **2007 5573**; BBl **2002 6845**).

²³⁰ Inserted by Art. 3 No 2 of the Federal Decree of 17 Dec. 2004 on the Approval and the Implementation of the Bilateral Agreements between Switzerland and the EU on Association with Schengen and Dublin, in force since 12 Dec. 2008 (SR **362**; AS **2008 5405** Art. 1 let. a).

²³¹ Agreement of 26 Oct. 2004 between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation concerning the criteria and mechanisms for establishing the State responsible for examining a request for asylum lodged in a Member State or in Switzerland (SR **0.142.392.68**); Prot. of 28 Feb. 2008 between the Swiss Confederation, the European Community and the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Agreement concerning the criteria and mechanisms for establishing the State responsible for examining a request for asylum lodged in a Member State or in Switzerland (SR **0.142.393.141**); Agreement of 17 Dec. 2004 between the Swiss Confederation, the Republic of Iceland and the Kingdom of Norway on the implementation, application and development of the Schengen Acquis and on the criteria and procedure for determining the State responsible for examining an application for asylum lodged in Switzerland, Iceland or Norway (SR **0.360.598.1**).

Art. 102b Disclosure of personal data to a state bound by one of the Dublin Association Agreements

The disclosure of personal data to the competent authorities of states that are bound by one of the Dublin Association Agreements shall be regarded as equivalent to the disclosure of personal data between federal bodies.

Art. 102c Disclosure of personal data to a state not bound by any of the Dublin Association Agreements

¹ Personal data may be disclosed to third countries only if they guarantee an adequate standard of data protection.

² If a third country fails to guarantee an adequate standard of data protection, personal data may be disclosed to this country in individual cases if:

- a. the person concerned gives their unequivocal consent; if the personal data or personality profiles are particularly sensitive, consent must be given expressly;
- b. the disclosure is required to protect the life or physical integrity of the person concerned; or
- c. the disclosure is required to safeguard overriding public interests or to establish, exercise or enforce legal rights in court.

³ In addition to the cases mentioned in paragraph 2, personal data may also be disclosed if in specific cases adequate guarantees ensure appropriate protection of the person concerned.

⁴ The Federal Council shall determine the extent of the guarantees required and the modalities for providing the guarantees.

Art. 102d²³²

Art. 102e Right to information

The right to information is governed by the federal and cantonal data protection provisions.²³³ The proprietor of the data collection shall also furnish information on the details available on the origin of the data.

²³² Repealed by No 2 of the Federal Act of 19 March 2010 on the Implementation of Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA on the protection of personal data processed in the framework of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, with effect from 1 Dec. 2010 (AS 2010 3387 3418; BBl 2009 6749).

²³³ Amended by No 2 of the Federal Act of 19 March 2010 on the Implementation of Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA on the protection of personal data processed in the framework of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, in force since 1 Dec. 2010 (AS 2010 3387 3418; BBl 2009 6749).

Art. 102^f and **Art. 102^g**²³⁴

Chapter 8: Legal Protection, Re-examination and Multiple Applications²³⁵

Section 1: Appeal Proceedings at Cantonal Level

Art. 103

¹ The cantons shall provide at least one appellate authority where appeals may be filed against rulings of cantonal authorities based on this Act and its implementing provisions.

² Appeals against decisions by cantonal courts of the last instance are governed by the general provisions on the administration of federal justice, unless otherwise provided in this Act.

Section 2: Appeal Proceedings at Federal Level

Art. 104²³⁶

Art. 105²³⁷ Appeals against SEM rulings

Appeals may be filed against SEM rulings in accordance with the Federal Administrative Court Act of 17 June 2005²³⁸.

Art. 106²³⁹ Grounds for appeal

¹ An appeal may be filed on the following grounds:

- a. the violation of federal law, including the abuse and exceeding of discretionary powers;

²³⁴ Repealed by No 2 of the Federal Act of 19 March 2010 on the Implementation of Framework Decision 2008/977/JHA on the protection of personal data processed in the framework of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, with effect from 1 Dec. 2010 (AS **2010** 3387 3418; BBl **2009** 6749).

²³⁵ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

²³⁶ Repealed by Annex No 4 of the Administrative Court Act of 17 June 2005, with effect from 1 Jan. 2007 (SR **173.32**).

²³⁷ Amended by No I 3 to No IV of the Ordinance of the Federal Assembly of 20 Dec. 2006 on the Adaptation of Enactments to the Provisions of the Supreme Court Act and the Administrative Court Act, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 5599, **2007** 5573; BBl **2006** 7759).

²³⁸ SR **173.32**

²³⁹ Amended by No I 2 of the Ordinance of the Federal Assembly of 20 Dec. 2006 on the Adaptation of Enactments to the Provisions of the Supreme Court Act and the Administrative Court Act (AS **2006** 5599; BBl **2006** 7759).

b. incorrect and incomplete determination of the legally relevant circumstances;

c.²⁴⁰ ...

² Article 27 paragraph 3 and Article 68 paragraph 2 remain reserved.

Art. 107 Contestable interim rulings

¹ Interim rulings issued in application of Article 10 paragraphs 1–3 and 18–48 of this Act as well as Article 71 FNA²⁴¹ may only be contested by appeal against the final ruling. The contesting of rulings remains reserved in accordance with Article 27 paragraph 3.²⁴²

² The following are also independently contestable, provided they may cause permanent prejudice:

a. precautionary measures;

b. rulings by which proceedings are suspended, other than rulings in accordance with Article 69 paragraph 3.

³ ...²⁴³

Art. 107a²⁴⁴ Dublin procedure

¹ No suspensive effect may be applied to appeals against decisions to dismiss applications made by asylum seekers who are able to travel to another state that is responsible under an international treaty for the conduct of asylum or removal proceedings.

² The asylum seeker may apply for the order to be suspended within the deadline for filing the appeal.

³ The Federal Administrative Court shall decide on the matter within five days of receipt of an application under paragraph 2. If suspension is not granted within five days, the removal order may be enforced

²⁴⁰ Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, with effect from 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

²⁴¹ SR **142.20**

²⁴² Amended by Annex No II 1 of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005 on Foreign Nationals, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (SR **142.20**).

²⁴³ Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, with effect from 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

²⁴⁴ Inserted by Art. 3 No 2 of the Federal Decree of 17 Dec. 2004 on the Approval and the Implementation of the Bilateral Agreements between Switzerland and the EU on Association with Schengen and Dublin, in force since 12 Dec. 2008 (AS **2008** 447; BBl **2004** 5965). Amended by Annex No I 1 of the Federal Decree of 26 Sept. 2014 (Adoption of R[EU] No 604/2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection), in force since 1 July 2015 (AS **2015** 1841; BBl **2014** 2675).

Art. 108²⁴⁵ Time limits for appeals

¹ An appeal must be filed within 30 days, and an appeal against interim rulings within ten days of notification of the ruling.

² For appeals against decisions to dismiss an application and decisions in accordance with Article 23 paragraph 1 and Article 40 in conjunction with Article 6a paragraph 2 letter a, the period is five working days.²⁴⁶

³ Denial of entry in accordance with Article 22 paragraph 2 may be contested until notification of the ruling in accordance with Article 23 paragraph 1.

⁴ A review of the legality and the appropriateness of the allocation of a place of stay at the airport or at another appropriate place in accordance with Article 22 paragraphs 3 and 4 and of detention in accordance with Article 76 paragraph 1 letter b number 5 or Article 76a FNA²⁴⁷ may be requested by means of appeal at any time.²⁴⁸

⁵ Written legal submissions made by fax are legally binding if they reach the Federal Administrative Court within the notice period and are supplemented by filing the signed original subsequently in accordance with Article 52 paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Federal Act of 20 December 1968²⁴⁹ on Administrative Procedure.²⁵⁰

Art. 108a²⁵¹ Coordination with the extradition proceedings

If the person seeking asylum is the subject of an application for extradition in accordance with the Mutual Assistance Act of 20 March 1981²⁵², the appeal authorities shall consult the files on the extradition proceedings when deciding on appeal relating to the asylum application.

²⁴⁵ Amended by No I and IV 1 of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

²⁴⁶ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 28 Sept 2012 (Emergency Amendments to the Asylum Act), in force from 29 Sept. 2012 to 28 Sept. 2015 (AS **2012** 5359; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

²⁴⁷ SR **142.20**

²⁴⁸ Amended by Annex No I 1 of the Federal Decree of 26 Sept. 2014 (Adoption of R[EU] No 604/2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection), in force since 1 July 2015 (AS **2015** 1841; BBl **2014** 2675).

²⁴⁹ SR **172.021**

²⁵⁰ Amended by No I 3 of the Ordinance of the Federal Assembly of 20 Dec. 2006 on the Amendment of Legislation in accordance with the Provisions on the Federal Supreme Court Act and the Federal Administrative Court Act, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 5599, **2007** 5573; BBl **2006** 7759).

²⁵¹ Inserted by No I 2 of the Federal Act of 19 Dec. 2003 on the 2003 Relief Programme (AS **2004** 1633; BBl **2003** 5615). Amended by No I 1 of the Federal Act of 1 Oct 2010 on the Coordination of Asylum and Extradition Proceedings, in force since 1 April 2011 (AS **2011** 925; BBl **2010** 1467).

²⁵² SR **351.1**

Art. 109²⁵³ Time limits for decisions

¹ The Federal Administrative Court normally decides within five working days on appeals against decisions to dismiss applications and rulings under Article 23 paragraph 1 and Article 40 in conjunction with Article 6a paragraph 2 letter a.²⁵⁴

2 ...²⁵⁵

³ The Federal Administrative Court normally decides on appeals against decisions in accordance with Article 22 paragraphs 2–4 and Article 76 paragraph 1 letter b number 5 FNA²⁵⁶ without delay on the basis of the files.

⁴ In other cases, the Federal Administrative Court shall normally decide on appeals within 20 days.²⁵⁷

⁵ The Federal Administrative Court shall decide will particular expeditiousness if the person seeking asylum is in detention pending extradition.²⁵⁸

Art. 109a²⁵⁹ Exchange of information

A regular exchange of information shall take place between the FDJP and the Federal Administrative Court on the prioritisation and administrative processing of proceedings of first and second instance.

Art. 109b²⁶⁰ Federal Administrative Court processing strategy

The Federal Administrative Court shall adopt a processing strategy; in doing so, it shall take account of:

- a. the SEM processing strategy under Article 37b;
- b. the statutory appeal and processing deadlines.

²⁵³ Amended by No I 3 of the Ordinance of the Federal Assembly of 20 Dec. 2006 on the Amendment of Legislation in accordance with the Provisions on the Federal Supreme Court Act and the Federal Administrative Court Act, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 5599, **2007** 5573; BBl **2006** 7759).

²⁵⁴ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 28 Sept 2012 (Emergency Amendments to the Asylum Act), in force from 29 Sept. 2012 to 28 Sept. 2015 (AS **2012** 5359; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

²⁵⁵ Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, with effect from 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

²⁵⁶ SR **142.20**

²⁵⁷ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

²⁵⁸ Inserted by No I 1 of the Federal Act of 1 October 2010 on the Coordination of Asylum and Extradition Proceedings, in force since 1 April 2011 (AS **2011** 925; BBl **2010** 1467).

²⁵⁹ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

²⁶⁰ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

Art. 110 Procedural time limits

¹ The additional period allowed for the amendment of the appeal amounts to seven days, and in the case of appeals against decisions to dismiss an application and decisions in accordance with Article 23 paragraph 1 and rulings under Article 111*b*, three days.²⁶¹

² The time limit for furnishing evidence is seven days if the evidence must be obtained in Switzerland, and 30 days for evidence that must be obtained abroad. Expert reports must be produced within 30 days.

³ The time limit may be extended if the appellant or their representative is prevented from acting within this time limit, in particular due to illness or accident.

⁴ The deadline for proceedings is at the most two working days in the case of proceedings relating to:

- a. the denial of entry into Switzerland and the allocation of a place of stay at the airport in accordance with Article 22 paragraphs 2–4;
- b. a detention order in accordance with Article 76 paragraph 1 letter b number 5 FNA^{262,263};

Art. 110a²⁶⁴ Legal aid

¹ The Federal Administrative Court shall at the request of the asylum seeker, who shall be exempted from paying the procedural costs, appoint an official legal adviser, but only in the case of appeals against:

- a. decisions to dismiss the application, decisions to refuse asylum and removal orders under Articles 31*a* and 44;
- b. decisions on the revocation or expiry of asylum under Articles 63 and 64;
- c. the termination of temporary admission relating to asylum seekers under Article 84 paragraphs 2 and 3 FNA²⁶⁵;
- d. decisions relating to granting temporary protection under Chapter 4 of this Act.

² Excluded are appeals under paragraph 1 if they arise in relation to Dublin proceedings (Art. 31*a* para. 1 let. b), re-examination and review proceedings and multiple applications. For these and other appeals that do not fall under paragraph 1, Article

²⁶¹ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

²⁶² SR 142.20

²⁶³ Amended by No I 3 and II of the Ordinance of the Federal Assembly of 20 Dec. 2006 on the Amendment of Legislation in accordance with the Provisions on the Federal Supreme Court Act and the Federal Administrative Court Act, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 5599, 2007 5573; BBl 2006 7759).

²⁶⁴ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

²⁶⁵ SR 142.20

65 paragraph 2 of the Administrative Procedure Act of 20 December 1968²⁶⁶ applies.

³ In the case of appeals that arise on the basis of this Act, persons with a university degree in law are also authorised to act as legal advisers providing professional advice and representation to asylum seekers.

Art. 111²⁶⁷ Competence of a single judge

¹ The following cases may be heard by a single judge:

- a. the dismissal of appeals due to irrelevance;
- b. summary dismissal of manifestly unlawful appeals;
- c. the decision relative to the preliminary denial of entry at the airport and the allocation of a place of stay at the airport;
- d.²⁶⁸ a detention order under Article 76 paragraph 1 letter b number 5 or Article 76a FNA²⁶⁹;
- e. with consent of a second judge: appeals that are clearly with or without justification.

Art. 111a²⁷⁰ Procedure and decision

¹ The Federal Administrative Court may dispense with an exchange of written submissions.²⁷¹

² Appeal decisions in accordance with Article 111 need only be summarily substantiated.

²⁶⁶ SR 172.021

²⁶⁷ Amended by No I and IV 1 of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

²⁶⁸ Amended by Annex No I 1 of the Federal Decree of 26 Sept. 2014 (Adoption of R[EU] No 604/2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection), in force since 1 July 2015 (AS 2015 1841; BBl 2014 2675).

²⁶⁹ SR 142.20

²⁷⁰ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845).

²⁷¹ Amended by No I 3 of the Ordinance of the Federal Assembly of 20 Dec. 2006 on the Amendment of Legislation in accordance with the Provisions on the Federal Supreme Court Act and the Federal Administrative Court Act, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS 2006 5599, 2007 5573; BBl 2006 7759).

Section 3: Re-examination and Multiple Applications²⁷²**Art. 111b²⁷³ Re-examination**

¹ An application for re-examination must be submitted to the SEM in writing and with a statement of grounds within 30 days of identifying the grounds for re-examination. The procedure is otherwise governed by Articles 66–68 of the Administrative Procedure Act of 20. December 1968²⁷⁴.

² Decisions to dismiss an application must normally be made within five working days of submission of an application for re-examination. In other cases, decisions must normally be made within ten working days of the application being submitted.

³ The submission of an application for re-examination does not delay enforcement. The authority responsible for processing may suspend enforcement on request if there is a specific danger to the applicant in his or her native country or country of origin.

⁴ Applications for re-examination without a statement of grounds or repeat applications that state the same grounds shall be dismissed without a formal decision being taken.

Art. 111c²⁷⁵ Multiple applications

¹ Applications for asylum made within five years of the asylum decision or removal order becoming legally binding must be submitted in writing with a statement of the grounds. The grounds for dismissal under Article 31a paragraphs 1–3 apply.

² Multiple applications or repeat applications that state the same grounds shall be dismissed without a formal decision being taken

Art. 111d²⁷⁶ Fees

¹ The SEM shall charge a fee if it rejects or dismisses an application for re-examination or a multiple application. If a request or application is approved in part, the fee is reduced. No compensation is paid.

² The SEM shall on request exempt the applicant following submission of re-examination or multiple applications from having to pay procedural costs provided he or she is in financial need and the application does not appear prima facie without merit.

²⁷² Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

²⁷³ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

²⁷⁴ SR 172.021

²⁷⁵ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

²⁷⁶ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325).

³ The SEM may request the applicant to make an advance payment of fees equivalent to the probable procedural costs. It shall allow an appropriate period for payment to be made, under threat of dismissal for failure to do so. An advance payment of fees shall not be requested:

- a. if the requirements of paragraph 2 are met; or
- b. in proceedings involving unaccompanied minors, provided the re-examination or multiple application does not appear prima facie without merit.

⁴ The Federal Council shall regulate the assessment of the fee and the level of the advance payment.

Art. 112²⁷⁷

Section 4: Stop and Suspension of Limitation Periods²⁷⁸

Art. 112^a²⁷⁹

For the duration of appeal proceedings, the limitation period for financial claims by the Confederation against recipients of subsidies or social assistance does not begin or is suspended if it has already begun.

Chapter 8a: Asylum Proceedings in Test Phases²⁸⁰

Art. 112^b²⁸¹ ...²⁸²

¹ The Confederation may provide for test phases to assess new procedures if a test phase is required for such procedures prior to amending the law due to the complex organisational and technical measures involved.

² The Confederation regulates the details of the test phases in an ordinance. In doing so it may deviate from the terms of this Act and the FNA²⁸³ in relation to the organi-

²⁷⁷ Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, with effect from 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

²⁷⁸ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

²⁷⁹ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

²⁸⁰ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

²⁸¹ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 28 Sept 2012 (Emergency Amendments to the Asylum Act), in force from 29 Sept. 2012 to 28 Sept. 2015 (AS **2012** 5359; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

²⁸² Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, with effect from 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

²⁸³ SR **142.20**

sation of first instance asylum proceedings and the removal proceedings and related financial issues.

³ It may reduce the deadline for filing an appeal under Article 108 paragraph 1 in test phases from 30 days to ten days, provided effective legal protection for the asylum seekers concerned is guaranteed by suitable measures.

⁴ The ordinance lists all the statutory provisions from which it deviates.

⁵ The test phases last no longer than two years.

Chapter 9: International Cooperation²⁸⁴

Art. 113 ...²⁸⁵

The Confederation shall participate in the harmonisation of European refugee policy at international level as well as in the resolution of refugee problems abroad. It shall support the activities of international charitable organisations. It shall in particular work with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Art. 114²⁸⁶

Chapter 10: Criminal Provisions²⁸⁷

Section 1: Criminal Provisions relative to Chapter 5 Section 2²⁸⁸

Art. 115 Misdemeanours

Any person who commits any of the following acts is liable to a monetary penalty not exceeding 180 daily penalty units, unless the act constitutes a felony or misdemeanour that carries a higher penalty under the Criminal Code²⁸⁹:

²⁸⁴ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

²⁸⁵ Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, with effect from 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

²⁸⁶ Repealed by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, with effect from 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

²⁸⁷ Amended by Art. 3 No 2 of the Federal Decree of 17 Dec. 2004 on the Approval and the Implementation of the Bilateral Agreements between Switzerland and the EU on Association with Schengen and Dublin, in force since 12 Dec. 2008 (SR **362**; AS **2008** 5405 Art. 1 let. a).

²⁸⁸ Inserted by Art. 3 No 2 of the Federal Decree of 17 Dec. 2004 on the Approval and the Implementation of the Bilateral Agreements between Switzerland and the EU on Association with Schengen and Dublin, in force since 12 Dec. 2008 (SR **362**; AS **2008** 5405 Art. 1 let. a).

²⁸⁹ Amended by Art. 333 of the Criminal Code (SR **311.0**) in the version contained in the Federal Act of 13 Dec. 2002, in force since 1 Jan. 2007 (AS **2006** 3459)

- a. obtaining, on the basis of this Act, for themselves or for another by providing false or incomplete information or in another way a pecuniary advantage that is not theirs by right;
- b.²⁹⁰ completely or partly evading the duty to pay the special charge in accordance with Article 86 by providing false or incomplete information or in another way;
- c.²⁹¹ as an employer, deducting the special charge from the salary of an employee but not using it for the planned purpose.
- d.²⁹² assists a person to commit an offence under Article 116 letter c with a view to his or her own financial gain, in particular through planning or organisation.

Art. 116 **Contraventions**

Any person who commits any of the following acts is liable to a fine, unless the act constitutes an offence under Article 115:

- a. violating the obligation to provide information by knowingly providing false information or refusing to provide information;
- b. resisting a check instructed by the competent authority or rendering this impossible in another way.
- c.²⁹³ carries out public political activities as an asylum seeker in Switzerland solely with the intention of establishing subjective post-flight grounds within the meaning of Article 54;
- d.²⁹⁴ assists a person to commit an offence under letter c, in particular through planning or organisation.

Art. 116a²⁹⁵ **Disciplinary fine**

¹ Any person who violates the payment regulations mentioned in Article 86 paragraph 4 may, if previously issued with a warning, be issued with a disciplinary fine not exceeding 1,000 francs. In the event of the repetition of the offence within two years, a disciplinary fine not exceeding 5,000 francs may be imposed.

² The SEM is responsible for issuing disciplinary fines.

²⁹⁰ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

²⁹¹ Amended by the drafting committee of the Federal Assembly (Art. 58 para. 1 ParlA - SR **171.10**). Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

²⁹² Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

²⁹³ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

²⁹⁴ Inserted by No I of the Federal Act of 14 Dec. 2012, in force since 1 Feb. 2014 (AS **2013** 4375 5357; BBl **2010** 4455, **2011** 7325).

²⁹⁵ Amended by No I of the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005, in force since 1 Jan. 2008 (AS **2006** 4745, **2007** 5573; BBl **2002** 6845).

Art. 117 Misdemeanours and contraventions in business operations

In the event that a misdemeanour or contravention is committed in the course of business of a legal entity, a partnership or a sole proprietorship or in the course of business of a public law corporation or institution, Articles 6 and 7 of the Federal Act of 22 March 1974²⁹⁶ on Administrative Criminal Law apply.

Section 2:²⁹⁷ **Criminal Provisions relative to Chapter 7 Section 2****Art. 117a** Improper processing of personal data

Any person who processes personal data stored in Eurodac for a purpose other than to establish which state is responsible for examining an application for asylum made by a citizen of a third country in a state subject to the Dublin Association Agreements is liable to a fine.

Section 3: Prosecution²⁹⁸**Art. 118** ...²⁹⁹

Prosecution is the responsibility of the cantons.

Chapter 11: Final Provisions**Art. 119** Implementation

The Federal Council shall be responsible for implementation. It shall issue the implementing provisions.

Art. 120 Repeal of existing legislation

The following are repealed:

- a. the Asylum Act of 5 October 1979³⁰⁰;

²⁹⁶ SR 313.0

²⁹⁷ Inserted by Art. 3 No 2 of the Federal Decree of 17 Dec. 2004 on the Approval and the Implementation of the Bilateral Agreements between Switzerland and the EU on Association with Schengen and Dublin, in force since 12 Dec. 2008 (SR 362; AS 2008 5405 Art. 1 let. a).

²⁹⁸ Inserted by Art. 3 No 2 of the Federal Decree of 17 Dec. 2004 on the Approval and the Implementation of the Bilateral Agreements between Switzerland and the EU on Association with Schengen and Dublin, in force since 12 Dec. 2008 (SR 362; AS 2008 5405 Art. 1 let. a).

²⁹⁹ Repealed by Art. 3 No 2 of the Federal Decree of 17 Dec. 2004 on the Approval and the Implementation of the Bilateral Agreements between Switzerland and the EU on Association with Schengen and Dublin, with effect from 12 Dec. 2008 (SR 362; AS 2008 5405 Art. 1 let. a).

- b. the Federal Decree of 16 December 1994³⁰¹ on Economy Measures in the Sphere of Asylum and Foreign Nationals.

Art. 121 Transitional provisions

¹ The new law applies to proceedings pending on the commencement of this Act.

² Pending proceedings on the granting of a residence permit by the immigration authorities in accordance with the prior Article 17 paragraph 2 shall become irrelevant.

³ The Appeals Commission and the FDJP shall retain jurisdiction over any appeals pending before them on the commencement of this Act, subject to paragraph 2 above.

⁴ On the commencement of this Act, the provisions of Chapter 4 shall apply to groups of foreign nationals temporarily admitted in accordance with the current Article 14a paragraph 5 of the Federal Act on the Residence and Permanent Settlement of Foreign Nationals³⁰². The length of stay of persons temporarily admitted in groups shall be taken into account when calculating the time limits in accordance with Article 74 paragraphs 2 and 3.

⁵ The previous law shall apply for up to two years after the commencement of this Act in relation to the payment of social benefits to refugees with a residence permit.

Art. 122 Relationship with the Federal Decree of 26 June 1998³⁰³ on Emergency Measures in the Sphere of Asylum and Foreign Nationals

If a referendum is sought on the Federal Decree of 26 June 1998 on Emergency Measures in the Sphere of Asylum and Foreign Nationals and it is rejected in a popular vote, the provisions listed below shall be deleted:

- a. Article 8 paragraph 4 (duty to cooperate in the acquisition of valid travel documents),
- b. Article 32 paragraph 2 letter a (dismissal of the application in the event of failure to submit travel documents or identity papers),

³⁰⁰ [AS 1980 1718, 1986 2062, 1987 1674, 1990 938 1587 Art. 3, 1994 1634 No I 8.1 2876, 1995 146 No II 1126 No II 1 4356, 1997 2372 2394, 1998 1582]

³⁰¹ [AS 1994 2876]

³⁰² [BS 1 121; AS 1949 221, 1987 1665, 1988 332, 1990 1587 Art. 3 para. 2, 1991 362 No II 11 1034 No III, 1995 146, 1999 1111, 2000 1891 No IV 2, 2002 685 No I 1 701 No I 1 3988 Annex No 3, 2003 4557 Annex No II 2, 2004 1633 No I 1 4655 No I 1, 2005 5685 Annex No 2, 2006 979 Art. 2 No 1 1931 Art. 18 No 1 2197 Annex No 3 3459 Annex No 1 4745 Annex No 1, 2007 359 Annex No 1. AS 2007 5437 Annex No I]. See: the Federal Act of 16 Dec. 2005 on Foreign Nationals (SR 142.20).

³⁰³ AS 1998 1582 No III. In the light of the adoption of this Federal Decree in the popular vote of 13 June 1999, this Article is irrelevant.

- c. Article 33 (dismissal of the application in the event of improper filing of an asylum application),
- d. Article 32 paragraph 2 letter b (dismissal of the application in the event of identity fraud); in this case, the content of Article 16 paragraph 1 letter b shall be inserted in the version in accordance with Number I of the Federal Decree of 22 June 1990³⁰⁴ on Asylum Procedures instead of the deleted provision of Article 32 paragraph 2 letter b; and
- e. Article 45 paragraph 2 (immediate implementation of decisions to dismiss applications); in this case, the content of Article 17a paragraph 2 shall be inserted in the version in accordance with Number II of the Federal Act of 18 March 1994³⁰⁵ on Coercive Measures under the Law on Foreign Nationals instead of the deleted provision of Article 45 paragraph 2 after the adjustment of the article references.

Art. 123 Referendum and commencement

¹ This Act is subject to an optional referendum.

² The Federal Council shall determine the commencement date.

Commencement date: 1 October 1999³⁰⁶

Final Provisions to the Amendment of 19 December 2003³⁰⁷

¹ The previous law in accordance with Article 37 applies to the time limit for processing applications for asylum that are filed before the commencement of this amendment to the Act.

² Article 50 of the Federal Administrative Procedure Act applies to time limits for filing appeals against decisions to dismiss an application in the first instance in accordance with Articles 32–34 that are issued before the commencement of this amendment to the Act³⁰⁸.

³ The previous law in accordance with Article 109 applies to appeals against decisions to dismiss an application in accordance with Articles 32–34 that is filed before the commencement of this amendment to the Act.

⁴ Articles 44a and 88 paragraph 1^{bis} also apply to decisions to dismiss an application in accordance with Articles 32–34 that became legally binding before the commencement of this Act. The cantons shall, however, receive support for nine months at the most after the commencement of this amendment to the Act in accordance with Article 88 paragraph 1, provided the Federal Office for Refugees supported the

³⁰⁴ AS 1990 938

³⁰⁵ AS 1995 146 151

³⁰⁶ Federal Council Decree of 11 Aug. 1999 (AS 1999 2298; BBl 1996 II 1).

³⁰⁷ AS 2004 1633; BBl 2003 5615

³⁰⁸ SR 172.021

cantons in the implementation of the deportation until the commencement of this amendment to the Act.

Transitional Provisions to the Amendment of 16 December 2005³⁰⁹

¹ The new law applies to the procedures pending on commencement of this amendment to the Act.

² If there are grounds for a final account before the commencement of this amendment to the Act in accordance with Article 87 in the version of 26 June 1998³¹⁰, the settlement and the balancing of the account shall be carried out in accordance with current legislation.

³ The Federal Council shall regulate the settlement procedures; it determines to what extent and how long persons who were gainfully employed before the commencement of this amendment to the Act and for whom there was no intermediate or final account in accordance with paragraph 2 at the in the time of the commencement of this amendment to the Act must pay a special charge and to which extent and how long their assets are distrained.

⁴ The Confederation shall make a single flat-rate payment of 15,000 francs to the cantons for each person for whom the decision to grant asylum or the deportation decision became legally binding before the commencement of this amendment to the Act, provided these persons have not yet left Switzerland.

Transitional Provision to the Amendment of 28 September 2012³¹¹

Articles 12, 19, 20, 41 paragraph 2, 52 and 68 apply in their previous versions to asylum applications that are filed abroad before the amendment to this Act of 28 September 2012 comes into force.

Transitional Provisions to the Amendment of 14 December 2012³¹²

¹ Subject to paragraphs 2–4, the new law applies to proceedings pending when the Amendment to this Act of 14 December 2012 comes into force.

² The previous law as of 1 January 2008 applies to re-examination and multiple application proceedings pending when the Amendment to this Act of 14 December 2012 comes into force. Paragraph 1 applies to Article 43 paragraph 2 and 82 paragraph 2.

³⁰⁹ AS 2006 4745, 2007 5573; BBl 2002 6845. Para. 1 in force since 1 Jan. 2007 and paras. 2–4 in force since 1 Jan. 2008.

³¹⁰ AS 1999 2262

³¹¹ AS 2012 5359; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325

³¹² AS 2013 4375 5357; BBl 2010 4455, 2011 7325

³ Airport operators are responsible for making accommodation at the airport in accordance with Article 22 paragraph 3 available within two years of the Amendment to this Act of 14 December 2012 coming into force.

⁴ Asylum applications filed before the Amendment to this Act of 14 December 2012 comes into force are governed by Article 17 and 26 of the previous law. Article 26^{bis} does not apply to asylum proceedings pending when the Amendment of 14 December 2012 comes into force. Article 110*a* does not apply to appeal proceedings pending when the Amendment of 14 December 2012 comes into force.

⁵ Revocation of asylum or the deprivation of refugee status does not apply to persons recognised as refugees under Article 51 of the previous law.

*Annex I*³¹³
(Art. 21 para. 3)

Dublin Association Agreements

The Dublin Association Agreements comprise:

- a. the Agreement of 26 October 2004³¹⁴ between the Swiss Confederation and the European Community on the criteria and procedure for determining the State responsible for examining an application for asylum lodged in a member state or in Switzerland (DAA);
- b. the Agreement of 17 December 2004³¹⁵ between the Swiss Confederation, the Republic of Iceland and the Kingdom of Norway on the implementation, application and development of the Schengen Acquis and on the criteria and procedure for determining the State responsible for examining an application for asylum lodged in Switzerland, Iceland or Norway;
- c. the Protocol of 28 February 2008³¹⁶ between the Swiss Confederation, the European Community and the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the European Community on the criteria and procedure for determining the State responsible for examining an application for asylum lodged in a member state or in Switzerland;
- d. the Protocol of 28 February 2008³¹⁷ between the Swiss Confederation, the European Community and the Principality of Liechtenstein on the accession of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the European Community on the criteria and procedure for determining the State responsible for examining an application for asylum lodged in a member state or in Switzerland.

³¹³ Inserted by Annex No 1 of the Federal Act of 13 June 2008 (Amendments in implementation of the Schengen and Dublin Association Agreements), in force since 12 Dec. 2008 (AS **2008** 5407 5405 Art. 2 let. c; BBl **2007** 7937).

³¹⁴ SR **0.142.392.68**

³¹⁵ SR **0.360.598.1**

³¹⁶ SR **0.142.393.141**

³¹⁷ SR **0.142.395.141**; not yet published.

*Annex 2*³¹⁸

Amendment of Current Legislation

...³¹⁹

³¹⁸ Originally Annex 1.

³¹⁹ The amendments may be consulted under AS **1999** 2262.

