



Media Monitoring

Situation Report January 7, 2010

1) The reception center in Eberau

- During a press conference, the president of the BZOe (Coalition for the Future of Austria), Mr. Josef Bucher presented today three measures as to avoid the construction of the new reception center in Austria: "First, more economic means for the asylum judges as to work at more speed and to be able to deport quicker. There are still asylum proceedings that require 10 and more years! Secondly, the reintroduction of border controls, particularly in the South. As 40% of the asylum-seekers arrive through the Italian border to Austria, this asylum tourism has to be stopped. And third, the creation of a troop for border protection, as to avoid the arrival of illegals [SIC]" This has also been the object of an article of *Oesterreich*, that asserts that on these matters this party and the FPK (Freedom's Party Carinthia) agree as never before. Scheuch, the leader of the FPK, has asserted that Italy is not careful with illegal immigrants (SIC) and they arrive to Austria without any control, indicating that "many illegals (SIC) here fall into criminality. I would recommend the Federal Government measures against this, for example, stricter border controls." Scheuch has added: "Faymann and Fekter [Note: the Chancellor and Home Affairs Minister] have not need understood, that it would be meaningful to impede the access of illegals (SIC) to Austria, than to place them in reception centers...We have to solve the problem of asylum-seekers in its roots, to impede the arrival to Austria. So they should not obstinately worry about a place for an asylum center." Scheuch has proposed stronger border controls and the multiplication of actions in the highways as to impede the arrival of "illegals" and to finish the problem of "asylum criminality"
- The Governor of Carinthia, Mr. Doerfler, has issued a press release insisting that his province abides by the agreed quotas, and that the Ministry of Home Affairs is not sending them the

International Protection

additional 79 asylum-seekers that they would need as to reach 100%.

- *Die Presse* publishes an article entitled *Asylzentrum: ÖVP drückt aufs Tempo*, asserting that while the People's Party looks for alternatives to Eberau, the social-democrats insists on the performance of a referendum; however, internal differences in the social-democracy are underlined (whether to construct a center, requests for signatures as to reduce the amount of asylum-seekers in Traiskirchen). At the same time, the same newspaper publishes *Eberau: ÖVP Burgenland attackiert Fekter*, asserting that the leadership of the People's Party in Burgenland (Mr. Steindl) is not happy with the actions performed by the Home Minister. *Kurier* and *Oesterreich* make clear that this is not the position of the rest of the party.
- *Die Presse* finally publishes an article where the President of the Federation of Villages Mr. Radakovits criticizes the formula chosen for the referenda, asserting that in case it is kept, it could be legally questioned (basically two questions are set up in one question: Do you agree that the Government of Burgenland gives its consent to the affectation of land and to the availability of land infrastructure, as to establish a reception center for asylum-seekers in your village?")
- *Krone Zeitung* includes an article in the today's edition with the statistics of every Austrian Bundesland, asserting that "If all Länder would satisfy their duties on this matter, a new center would be not necessary, asserted the Social-Democrat Minister Darabos, from Burgenland."
- *Format* anticipates an interview to the Governor of Lower Austria, Mr. Erwin Proell, that shall be published tomorrow, asserting that asylum matters should be the competence of the *Bundesländern* and not of the federal state.
- Ms. Rudas, from the Social-Democratic party, issued a press release asserting that the referendum in Burgenland concerning the asylum centre should be binding.

2) Situation of asylum-seekers in Austria

International Protection

Der Standard publishes an article "Ich habe nicht mehr zu verlieren" (I do not have anything else to lose) concerning the situation of a family of asylum-seekers from Ingushetia. The second wife of an asylum seeker that had obtained temporary protection, Mrs. Aza Kalimatov and their daughter were detained on December 15th, 2009, and days later deported to Poland, on the basis that this country would be competent for their asylum-proceeding. The woman was married since October 2009 to Mr. Islam Kalimatov and had presented a petition for extending his subsidiary protection status to her. However, the petition does not count with suspensive effect, and the deportation could take place. Moreover, Mr. Kalimatov has received a summons to appear on January 26th, 2010 before the Asylum Office of Traiskirchen as to pursue the deprivation of his status as beneficiary of subsidiary protection. He counts with three daughters. In August 2007 his first wife, Mrs. Eliza Kalimatova died in her ninth month of pregnancy, when she was 40 years old as her aorta had a bleeding, while she was in Thalham (Upper Austria), originating discussions whether the urgency medical services arrived quickly enough. Accusations had indicated that the deceased woman would have been accused of simulating her situation. Mr. Kalimatov is following psychological therapy, as well as his three daughters, who currently speak German and one of them is visiting middle school. Moreover, he is currently authorized to work and counts with a profession.

This newspaper also includes an article of Irene Brickner on the situation of asylum-seekers since year 2010, asserting that some legal changes have entered into force. On January 5th, 2010, in the reception center Traiskirchen, three asylum-seekers presented their asylum petition and asserted to be minors. Two of them were taken into administrative detention. The so-called Dublin cases originate administrative detention in police detention centers, even for minors. Mr. Heinz Fronck, from the NGO coalition Asylkoordination has asserted to *Standard* that more minors will be in administrative detention than in year 2010. In 2009, 180 of them had been detained, according to the information received by the coalition, asserting that the problem is that they are not informed about many cases. The representatives of the youth are now automatically informed about the detention, as normally every complaint on the

International Protection

administrative detention is successful, and ends up in liberation. Moreover, in Traiskirchen, new asylum seekers have to sign an additional document that they cannot abandon the district of Baden. In Upper-Austria, it is the district Linz-Land for the reception center Thalham. The information accompanies a map. The violation can originate a fine. In addition, Standard underlines that Diakonie (Evangelical Church), that provides counseling to asylum-seekers in Traiskirchen has received 1/6 of the money they used to receive in subsidies from the State, however, continuing their functions.

3) Rights of Turkish citizens in Austria

Mr. Hofer (Freedom's Party) issued a press release against the "preference" of Turkish citizens against other third-country nationals. The Vice-president of his party and speaker for persons with disabilities, presented a request of information to the Minister of Social Affairs concerning under which circumstances a Turkish citizen enjoys social help in Austria.

(https://iwww.parlament.gv.at/PG/DE/XXIV/AB/AB_03332/fname_176002.pdf). According to the reply, they receive it after five years of stay in Austria, that is, without citizenship they are, in his view, receiving equal treatment than Austrians. Other third-country nationals do not count with this benefit, in his view. The Freedom's Party rejects this rule: "Consequently, Turkish citizens are better treated than Swiss, Americans or Tunesian citizens residing in Austria. The reason is the Association treaty of the EU with Turkey... This is not only unfair but silly." He added the lack of protection of the minimum income rules for persons with disabilities.

The assertions originated the reply of Ms. Laura Rudas, from the social-democrats, that asserted that all third-country nationals have first after five years of legal permanence in Austria right to the minimum income, what includes Turkish citizens. The assertion that Turkish citizens are better treated is false.

Due to the reaction of Ms. Laura Rudas, the Member of Parliament and speaker on disability matters, Mr. Norbert Hofer asserted that Turkish nationals, thanks to the Association Treaty with the EU are preferred: "They receive almost immediately a legal job and a permit to stay in Austria in comparison to other third-country nationals. This permit to



stay is the condition as to obtain the access to basic social rights.” He would have asserted that the access to these rights should be only reserved to Austrian citizens in the view of the Freedom’s Party. As the current model does not push immigration from qualified immigrants, there is always a migration affecting the social system.”

For any question or comment, please, contact:
mediamonitoring@international-protection.org

International Protection (ZVR Zahl: 271109246)
Wagramer Strasse 25, Vienna, 1220.