

PROGRAMME

INTERVISION TRAINING organised by ECRE and NANSEN

FOR LAWYERS Specialising in immigration law

“Respect for the principle of non-refoulement at the border: recent findings”

Where: Mundo Matonge, Rue d'Edimbourg, 26, 1050 Brussels. In-person attendance only.

When: Thursday 10 April 2025, from 9.30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

What: This intervision will focus on respect for the principle of non-refoulement regarding persons seeking international protection at the Belgian border. On this occasion, UNHCR Belgium will outline the principle of non-refoulement. We are also interested in what is happening on the ground in Belgium: NANSEN will present its findings and Piet Heyvaert, an immigration lawyer, will talk to us about his practice. Finally, ECRE will outline the mechanism of a Rule 39 at the European Court of Human Rights. The various contributions will address the effects of the European Pact on Asylum and Migration in a cross-cutting manner.

Useful sources :

- UNHCR, “Toolkit on how to request interim measures under rule 39 of the rules of the European Court of Human Rights or persons in need of international protection”, Février 2025, https://www.refworld.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/rule_39_toolkit.pdf.
- Legal submission in the case [C.O.C.G. v. Lithuania](#), Application No. 17764/22, September 2024, on behalf of the intervenors: The AIRE Centre (Advice on Individual Rights in Europe), ECRE (the European Council on Refugees and Exiles), the Dutch Council for Refugees, The ICJ (the International Commission of Jurists), and the IRAP (International Refugee Assistance Project)
- NANSEN Note 3-23, « [Effective protection against refoulement for people fleeing Afghanistan](#) »
- MYRIA, MyriaDoc 11, « Retour, détention et éloignement des étrangers en Belgique – Un regard sur le monitoring des éloignements », Juillet 2021, <https://www.myria.be/fr/publications/myriadoc-11-retour-detention-et-eloignement>
- ECRE/ELENA Legal note : [Across the Borders: The Impact of N.D. and N.T. in Europe](#), June 2021.
- NANSEN, « [Vulnérabilités en détention – Rapport 2019-2020](#) ».
- NANSEN-note 2018/1, « [Demandeurs d’asile à la frontière : procédure à la frontière et détention](#) ».
- (forthcoming) NANSEN Note 2025-2, « Effectivité des recours contre une décision de refoulement »
- (forthcoming) NANSEN Note 2025-1, « Protection internationale et détention à la frontière »
- (forthcoming) NANSEN Profil 2025-1, « Homme sierra léonais perçu comme gay refoulé vers la Gambie »

The session will be held in French, Dutch and English. Interpretation will be provided between the first two languages (FR-NL and NL-FR).

A light lunch will be provided after the session.

This intervention is accredited with 3 legal points by Avocats.be and OVB.

TRAINING - INTERVISION	
“Respect for the principle of non-refoulement at the border: recent findings”	
9.15 a.m.	Welcome
9.30 a.m.	Introduction by <i>Julie Lejeune, NANSEN</i>
9.45 a.m.	The contours of the principle of non-refoulement, <i>Valérie Klein, UNHCR Belgium (FR)</i>
10.30 a.m.	Observations made by NANSEN in the field, Belgian legal framework and impact of the European Pact on Asylum and Migration, <i>Alice SINON, NANSEN (FR)</i>
11.15 a.m.	Break
11.30 a.m.	Sharing experiences, <i>Piet Heyvaert, lawyer at Alter Egaux (NL)</i>
12.15 p.m.	‘Rule 39’ at the European Court of Human Rights: outline of the mechanism, <i>Iryna Hnasevych, Senior Legal Officer, ECRE (EN, without translation)</i>
1 p.m.	Q&A
1.15 p.m.	Lunch
2 p.m. CLOSING	