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Romania amended legislation in May 2023 to allow for the participation of EUAA experts in the registration and analysis of the claims made in an asylum application.405

In Belgium, the CGRS launched the testing of new working methods between September 2023 and January 2024 in the pilot project “Tabula Rasa” with the purpose to maximise the number of decisions. Among several measures, it includes shortening the reasoning of decisions and the use of preliminary questionnaires to be completed in writing before the personal interview (*see Section 3.4.4*).406The CGRS also expanded the electronic exchange of documents between first instance and second instance bodies in June-July 2023.

The credibility assessment framework was under review in the Netherlands and measures relating to group policies were under development.407In addition, The Dutch National Coordinator for Security and Counterterrorism (NCTV) undertook a system check of the different organisations which cooperate in security and migration issues. The evaluation found that processes were sufficient, but improvements could be made. Following these results, the IND planned to make changes on two points. Clearer instructions would be drafted for searching the Internet, including social media, during the standard screening in asylum and family reunification processes. And an agreement would be made to guarantee minimal search enquiries. These changes aim to improve the investigation of open sources during the screening. The IND will also adapt its processes to ensure that a more extensive open-source investigation is undertaken by specialist employees when there are signs that the applicant may be a possible danger to national security. The case can be reported to the General Intelligence and Security Service (AIVD) only after this investigation. The aim of this change is to ensure that both the IND and the AIVD have the most complete picture possible when dealing with such cases. In addition, the IND continued to work on improving the quality of investigations into threats to national security when carrying out the asylum and family reunification screening processes.408

ECRE input on Bulgaria welcomed the fact that the SAR made its internal guidelines available to the public for the first time in 2023.409

- 405Ordonanta de Urgenta nr 35 din 17 mai 2023 pentru modificarea și completarea unor acte normative privind domeniul străinilor și azilului în România [Emergency Ordinance No 35 of 17 May 2023 for the amendment of normative acts regarding the field of foreigners and asylum in Romania]. https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocumentAfis/270497

- 406Office of the Commissioner General for Refugees and Stateless Persons | Commissariaatgeneraal voor de vluchtelingen en de staatlozen | Commissariat Général aux Réfugiés et aux Apatrides. (2023, July 18). *Tabula Rasa*.

- 407Ministry of Justice and Security | Ministerie van Justitie en Veiligheid. (2023, November 10). *Kamerbrief over actuele situatie asielketen en MMP 2023-2 [Letter to Parliament about the current situation of the asylum chain and MMP 2023-2]*.

- 408Immigration and Naturalisation Service | Immigratie- en Naturalisatiedienst. (2023, June 6). *IND strengthens investigation of open sources for national security* . https://ind.nl/en/news/ind-strengthens-investigation-of-open-sources-for-national-security
- 409European Council on Refugees and Exiles. (2024). Input to the Asylum Report 2024.

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