

Overview of the Intergovernmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees (IGC)

IGC Chair (Switzerland)



Global Meeting of Chairs and Secretariats of
Regional Consultative Processes on Migration (RCPs)



Bangkok, Thailand
4-5 June 2009



Origins and Key Dates



- | | |
|------|---|
| 1985 | Founded within UNHCR to look at asylum questions in Europe. |
| 1990 | A Coordinator for the IGC Secretariat is appointed. |
| 1991 | IGC Secretariat becomes autonomous |
| 1993 | IOM made responsible for all administrative and financial arrangements. |
| 2006 | Conclusion of IGC Strategic Review: immigration and integration formally added to process |
| 2010 | 25 years of existence |

The IGC

Purpose

- ♦ Policy debate
- ♦ Information exchange - policy and implementation

Format

- ♦ Process, not institution
- ♦ Informal character
- ♦ Non-political and non-decision making

Participation

- ♦ Inter-regional process
- ♦ Like-minded Participating States
- ♦ Inter-governmental

Approach

- ♦ Common interests, common problems
- ♦ Whole of migration
- ♦ Limited participation and confidentiality

Current participants



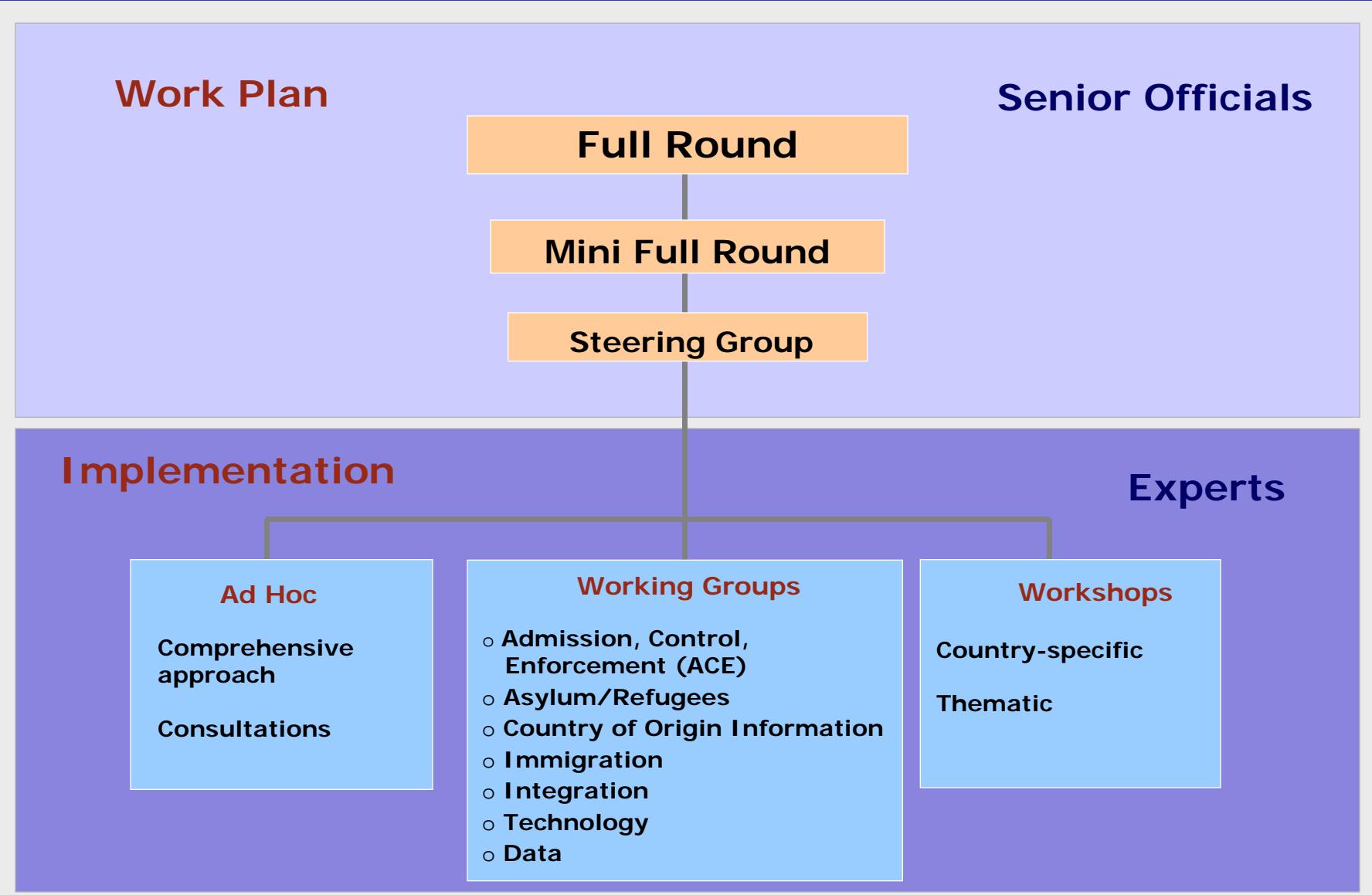
1 Supranational Body European Commission



2 International Organisations IOM & UNHCR



Structure and Lines of Authority



Structure and Lines of Authority

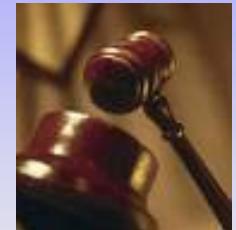
- ♦ Chair (currently Switzerland)

- ♦ Changes annually
- ♦ Oversees Secretariat
- ♦ Establishes theme(s)
 - ♦ "Skilled Labour Migration "

- ♦ Hosts Full Round Meetings

- ♦ Troika

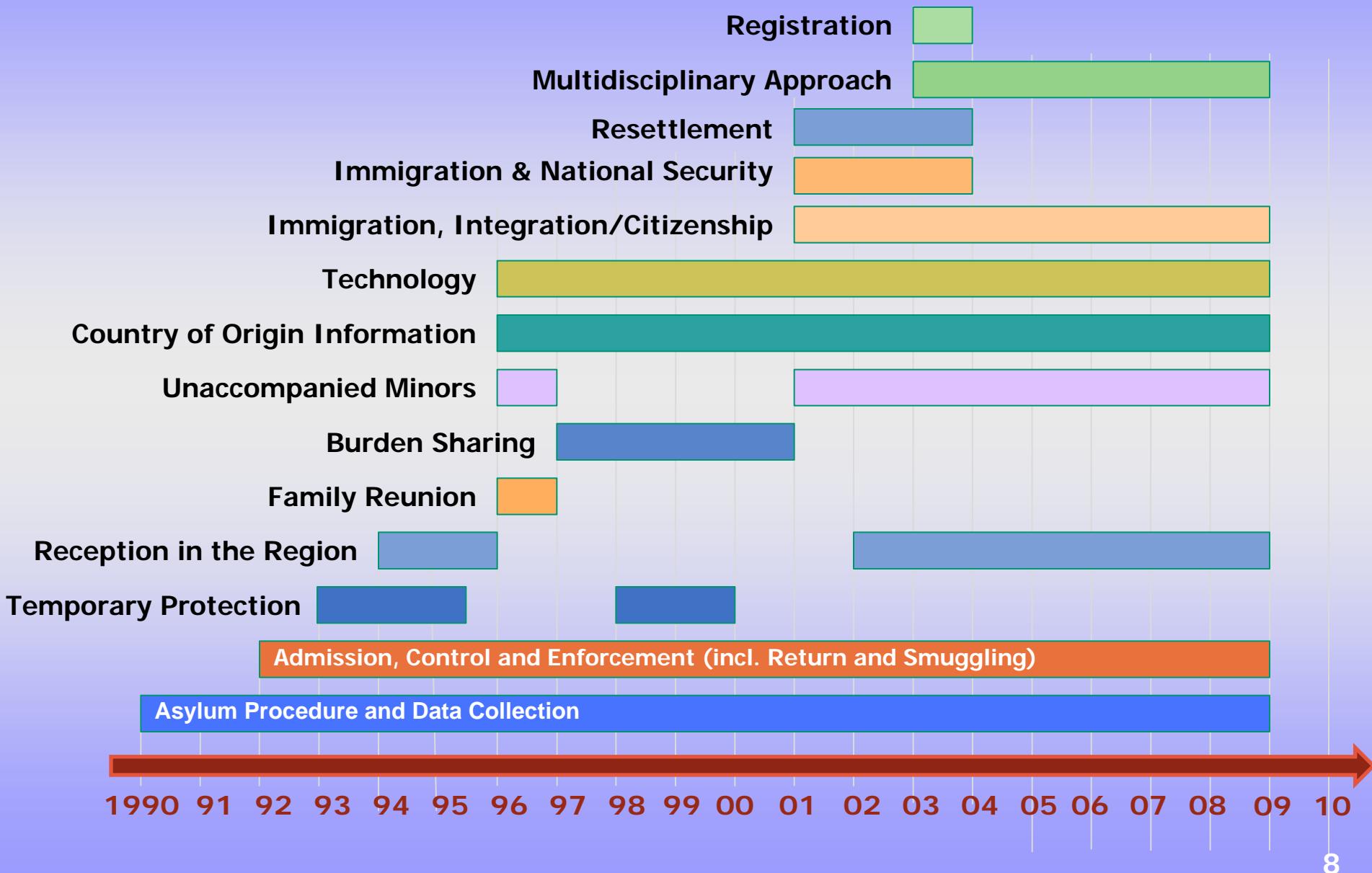
- ♦ Current, previous and next Chairs
- ♦ Provides continuity
- ♦ Regular consultations



Role of the Secretariat

- ◆ Budget 2 million Swiss Francs per annum
- ◆ 7 staff (5 professionals, 2 support staff)
- ◆ Reports to Chair, Troika and Participating States
- ◆ Organises and facilitates meetings
- ◆ “Clearing house for information”
 - ◆ Requests
 - ◆ Documentation
 - ◆ Databases
 - ◆ Secure Website
- ◆ Maintain networks of policy and operational experts
- ◆ Provides advice / support for policy development purposes

Areas of interest



Information Exchange - 3 tracks

Meetings

- Full-Round and Mini Full-Round
- Steering Group
- Working groups
- Workshops

Documentation

- Documents from PS
- Comparative matrices and reports
- Background papers
- Data overviews

Databases

- Asylum data
- Return data
- Readmission
- Exclusion (1F cases)

Secure Web Site

Includes meeting documentation, discussion forums, information search and databases (statistics, full text)

Relationship with Other Forums/Actors

- Participation in IGC activities
 - regular: UNHCR, IOM and European Commission, Frontex
 - limited/ad hoc: Council of Europe, OECD, ICAO, Europol, academics, private sector, etc.
- Cooperation
 - shared organisational and substantive methodology (e.g. IGC set up, data collection, model legislation)
 - joint meeting with other RCPs (e.g Budapest Group, Asia Pacific Consultations)

Information Exchange – Focus and Products

MEETINGS



DOCUMENTATION



DATABASES



Meetings - 2009

Working Groups (spring/autumn sessions)

◎ Admission, Control and Enforcement (ACE)

Themes: Return/readmission, Border control

◎ Asylum/Refugees

Themes: Quality decision-making, Reception of asylum-seekers

◎ Country of Origin Information

Themes: training for COI researchers/users

◎ Immigration

Themes: Cooperation on skilled migration, Student migration/access to labour market

◎ Integration

Themes: Preparing communities to receive migrants, Linguistic integration

◎ Technology

Theme: Processing and management of asylum/refugee caseloads, Border systems

Meetings – 2009

Workshops

International Information-Sharing

Benefits and Challenges of Sharing Asylum, Refugee and Other Immigration Data

Unaccompanied Minors (tentative)

Protection in Region (tentative)

Preventing/disrupting Irregular Immigration (tentative) Chair: Switzerland

Senior Official Meetings

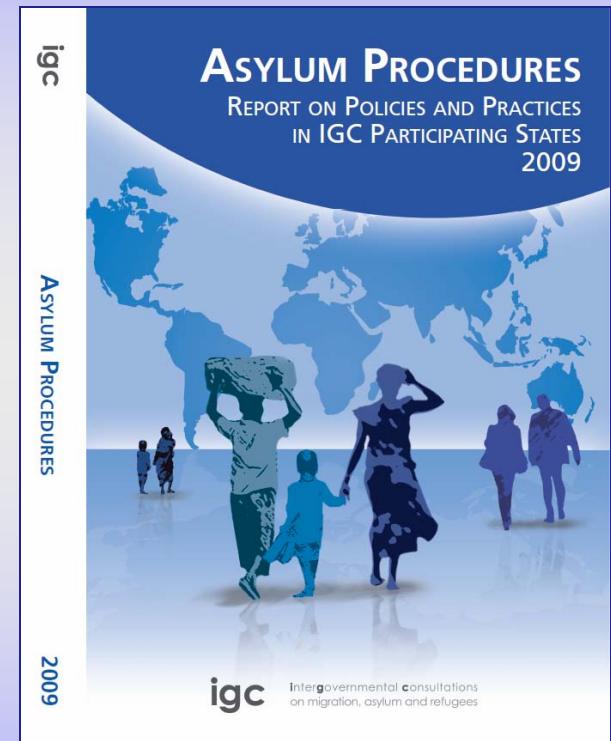
Full Round (Swiss Chair)

Mini-Full Round

Steering Group

2009 Blue Book on Asylum Procedures

- First since 1997
- 17 standardised country reports
- state-owned information
- comparison of policies and practices
- comprehensive picture of the asylum determination continuum



Available in hard copy mid-June 09
<http://www.igc-publications.ch/>

Documentation - Comparative Analysis (2006 Grey Book)

Enforcement	Asylum/Refugee					Immigration				Cross-Cutting issues					
	AUS	BEL	CAN	DEN	FIN	GER	IRE	NET	NZL	NOR	SPA	SWE	SWI	UK	USA
Matrix 27: Access to Family Reunification Possibilities															
Asylum seekers															
Possibility to grant family reunion	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y ⁽¹⁾	N	N	
Geneva Convention Status															
possibility to grant family reunion	Y ⁽¹⁾	Y	Y ⁽¹⁾	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
criteria to be met	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
legal stay criteria	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
age criteria	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	N	Y	
ability to accommodate family members	N	N	N	Y ⁽¹⁾	N	Y ⁽¹⁾	N	N		N	Y	N	N	N	
ability to financially support family members	Y ⁽²⁾	N	Y ⁽²⁾	N ⁽²⁾	N	Y ⁽¹⁾	N	Y ⁽¹⁾		N	Y	N	N	N	
waiting period (WP) / Immediate (I)	Y	Y	Y ⁽³⁾	Y	Y	I	I	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	I	
Family link criteria - partner	Spouse	Y	Y	Y ⁽¹⁾	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
	Cohabitation	Y	Y ⁽¹⁾	N ⁽⁴⁾	Y	Y ⁽¹⁾	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N ⁽¹⁾	
	Same sex union	Y	Y	N ⁽⁴⁾	Y	Y	(2)	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	
	Polygamy	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	
	Prospective spouse	Y	(Y)	Y ⁽¹⁾	N ⁽³⁾	(N)	N	Y ⁽¹⁾	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	
	Proof of relationship	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Family link criteria- children	Family reunion with children?	Y	Y	Y ⁽¹⁾	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
	Age limit	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y ⁽³⁾	Y	Y	Y	Y ⁽¹⁾	Y	Y	Y	
	Dependency	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	(Y)	Y	Y	
	Unmarried	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
	Adopted	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y ⁽³⁾	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
	Proof of relationship	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Family link criteria - parents	family reunion with parents?	Y	N ⁽²⁾	Y ⁽¹⁾	Y	(Y)	(4)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y ⁽²⁾	N	
	Age	Y ⁽²⁾	N	N	Y	N ⁽²⁾		(2)	Y	Y ⁽¹⁾	Y	N	N	n/a	
	Dependency	varies	Y	N	N	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	n/a	
	Proof of relationship	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	n/a	
Other relatives	Grand children	N	N	Y ⁽¹⁾	N	N ⁽¹⁾	N ⁽⁵⁾	Y ⁽³⁾	N	N	N	Y ⁽¹⁾	Y ⁽²⁾	N	
	Nieces/nephews	N	N	N	N	N ⁽¹⁾	N ⁽⁵⁾	N	N	N	N	Y ⁽¹⁾	Y ⁽²⁾	N	
	Uncles/aunts	N	N	N	N	N ⁽¹⁾	N ⁽⁵⁾	N	N	N	N	Y ⁽¹⁾	Y ⁽²⁾	N	
	Other relatives (which)	Y	N	Y ⁽¹⁾	N	N ⁽¹⁾	N ⁽⁵⁾	Y ⁽³⁾	N	Y ⁽¹⁾	N	Y ⁽¹⁾	Y ⁽²⁾	N	
Gradual family reunion (G) / once only (O)		G	G	G	G	G	G	G		G	G/O	G	G	G	
Proposals for change															

Overview of Asylum and Immigration Systems

Set of 50 synoptic matrices

Sections on:

- Enforcement
- Asylum
- Immigration
- Cross-cutting issues

Databases

On-line Databases (IGC Secure Website)

Asylum

- applications (statistics)
- decisions (statistics)
- unaccompanied minors (statistics)
- exclusion cases (text)

Return

- rejected asylum seekers (statistics)
- readmission agreements/arrangements

Other data collections

- Data on immigration, naturalisation and stocks of non-nationals
- Return of all categories
- Rejections at the borders
- Absconders

For more information



intergovernmental consultations
on migration, asylum and refugees

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