The challenge

- To produce, process, and disseminate statistical data on asylum and migration, ensuring harmonised definitions, comprehensiveness, quality and timeliness
- Increasing demand from all users for good quality comparable EU statistics on migration and asylum
- Many different data sources and definitions are in place at national level, often closely related to national policy and administrative practice
- The data must meet the policy needs of national governments and of the European Union

Previous action

A decade of work on improving the comparability of national data:
- Projects to check, correct and update the Eurostat database on international migration
- Workshops
- Publications
- Co-operation with national and international actors

Policy Background

- Treaty of Amsterdam
  - introduction of Community policy competence in migration and asylum
- May 2001 Council conclusions on statistics
  - a comprehensive and coherent framework for future action on improving statistics
  - the need for improved exchange and analysis of statistics in the field of asylum and migration

Commission Action Plan

- Commission Action Plan for the collection and analysis of Community Statistics in the field of migration
  Communication adopted 14th April 2003
- European Parliament Civil Liberties Committee Report: Tuesday 9th September 2003

Commission Action Plan

- New practices, common statistical methods and new forms of co-operation
- Activities to enhance information exchange and to promote decision-making
- Changes to data collections and databases
- Improved dissemination methods
- Action related to the legal and political framework
**EU statistical legislation**

- Many statistical domains are backed by legislation defining the data to be collected and supplied to Eurostat
  - content, coverage, definitions, quality measures, timing, methodology
- No comprehensive legislative basis for migration and asylum statistics

**Form of legislation**

- Often in the form of a Framework Regulation
  - Commission proposal adopted by the European Parliament and Council
- Implementing Regulations
  - Commission action defining and modifying details
- Directly applicable in all EU Member States

**Potential benefits for all parties**

- Clarifies what is required from national authorities
- Greater certainty of data supply for EU statistics
- Improved comparability, timeliness, quality
- May simplify obtaining necessary funding for the work

**Principles**

- The legislation will reflect:
  - the UN Recommendations for Migration Statistics
  - existing definitions applied in the data collections
  - EU policy and legislation on migration and asylum

**Scope**

- The legislation will relate to all current and planned Eurostat migration and asylum statistics
  - annual migration, monthly data on asylum and enforcement measures against illegal migration, statistics on residence permits issued to non-EEA citizens, ‘Dublin II’ statistics on determination of responsibility for assessing asylum applications

**Technical Discussions**

- Extensive preparatory discussions are underway stages - written and a programme of meetings
  - National Statistical Institutes, Ministries of Justice and Interior, Immigration and Police Authorities
  - EU Institutions
  - International organisations
Initial timetable

- First draft to be completed during October 2003
- Technical discussion meetings: September-December 2003
- Aim: Commission proposal by end-2003/early 2004
- But ...only the first key stage in a long legislative process