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Mommers, C.M.F.

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Curriculum vitae

Christian Mommers was born in Harmelen, the Netherlands, in 1979. In 2005, he obtained the Dutch equivalent of a masters in Culture, Organisation and Management at the Free University (*Vrije Universiteit*) Amsterdam. In 2009, he started his research on the issue at hand in this dissertation as an external PhD candidate at the Institute of Immigration Law of the Leiden Law School, which has since been incorporated in the Europa Institute. Both before and during his PhD research, he worked in the field of migration, asylum and human rights in various capacities. After initially volunteering for the Dutch Refugee Council at the Schiphol Airport Application Centre, he worked there and in other centres as a supervisor in 2001 and 2002, before leaving this position to resume his academic studies, which included a period of research in Uganda in 2003. In 2004, he provided legal assistance to refugees with the NGO Africa and Middle East Refugee Assistance (AMERA) in Egypt. This was followed by a period working as an immigration officer at the Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service in 2005. From 2006 to early 2010 he was as a project officer and research manager at the mission of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in The Hague, specifically dealing with issues of voluntary return and assisted voluntary return (AVR) programmes. In 2010 and 2011, he worked on his dissertation while also acting as a part-time, pro bono advisor at the Refugee Rights Clinic of the Buchmann Faculty of Law of Tel Aviv University in Israel. Following a period as an independent consultant (carrying out evaluations of AVR programmes and return laws and policies) based out of Slovakia, he acted as senior political affairs officer for the Dutch section of Amnesty International from 2012 to 2016. In October 2016, he took up his current position as advisor to the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, based in Strasbourg.

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