

On 10 February 2026, the European Parliament adopted amendments to the EU Asylum Procedures Regulation (APR), following the Commission's proposals of April and May 2025 (for further details, see e.g. [S. Bacci](#); [M. Ferri](#)). The revisions provide for: a) the **creation of an EU list of safe countries of origin**, enabling the use of fast-track asylum procedures, which will also apply to applicants from EU accession candidate countries; b) a **revised – and broader – definition of the “safe third country” concept**.

Under the new rules, accelerated procedures may be applied even where no significant connection exists between the applicant and the third country involved. This appears to lend support to arrangements such as the so-called “Albania model”, as applicants may be transferred to a third country with which a bilateral, multilateral or EU-level agreement or arrangement is in place.

In addition, MEPs endorsed the **early application of selected APR provisions** ahead of the New Pact's full implementation in June 2026. These include the possibility of introducing exceptions to safe third country designations for specific regions or clearly identifiable categories of persons, as well as the use of accelerated border procedures for applicants from countries with an asylum recognition rate below 20%.

These developments must be read in light of the Court of Justice's case law on the definition and application of the safe third country concept, notably its judgments in *CV* and in *Alace and Canpelli*. In this respect, the direction taken by the reform appears, at least *prima facie*, difficult to reconcile with the principles affirmed by the Court in *CV* and in *Alace and Canpelli*, thereby inviting reflection on the extent to which the revised framework can remain consistent with the interpretative *acquis* consolidated in those rulings (for further details – particularly on the impact of these judgments on the Italian legal system – see e.g. [B. Cortese](#); [C. Favilli and L. Marin](#); [F. Munari](#)).

Before they can enter into force, the texts – available [here](#) – still require formal approval by the Council of the EU, despite the Parliament's final vote in plenary. The political agreement with the European Parliament was reached in [December 2025](#).

Silvia Bacci