

Dear Sir/Madam,

You have applied for asylum in the Netherlands. The Dutch government has decided that the IND will get more time to decide on asylum applications. In this letter you can read what this means for your application.

**The IND normally has 6 months to decide on your asylum application**

The period for making a decision is called the legal decision period. According to the law, the standard legal decision period for asylum applications is 6 months.

**The IND extends the decision period for all asylum applications by 9 months**

The number of asylum applications is higher than the IND can currently process. Despite various measures, the IND is unable to make a decision within 6 months. We expect that we will need longer to decide in the near future. That is why the government has decided, in a letter from the House of Representatives of 26 August 2022, to extend the decision period.

**Your decision period may have already become longer due to other reasons**

Sometimes your decision period has already been extended. Below you can read examples of situations in which the decision period is longer. This could potentially apply to your asylum application:

- Your application is subject to a decision moratorium. This means that the IND temporarily does not make decisions on asylum applications from people from a certain country. The IND does this if the situation in your country is unclear. The decision period is usually extended by 1 year.
- The IND first processed your application in the Dublin procedure. This happens if we think that another EU country is responsible for your asylum application. For example, because you have applied for asylum in another EU country. You have received a letter stating that the Netherlands will still process your asylum application.
- The IND has taken a negative decision on your asylum application. And you have appealed to the court. The court has decided that the IND must make a new decision on your asylum application.
- The IND needs more time for further investigation. You have been notified about this.

**The legal decision period for your asylum application is a maximum of 21 months**

You can calculate your decision period yourself. You then add up 6+9 months + previous renewals to a maximum of 21 months. The IND is never allowed to take longer than 21 months to make a decision. You count from the date on which you signed the asylum application. Did the IND first process your application in the Dublin procedure? Then you count from the moment your application continued in the national procedure. This is when the IND informed you that the Netherlands is responsible for your asylum application.

**We do our best to give you clarity about your future as soon as possible**

We understand that you want to know where you stand. And that this can be a difficult message for you to receive. Unfortunately, we cannot tell you exactly

when you will get your decision. The IND is taking various actions to make an earlier decision on applications. The IND will contact you if this applies to your application.

**Want to know more?**

We keep track of all developments regarding asylum and the measures on our website. For more information and the latest news, visit [ind.nl/en/asylum-latest-developments](https://ind.nl/en/asylum-latest-developments).

The Secretary of Justice and Security,

On behalf of,

C. Nijkamp  
Directeur Asiel en Bescherming.