



## FAQs for MECS Asylum Reports



This document provides more detailed information concerning MECS reports for asylum cases. The document is intended to support legal firms in their instructing Dr Fatah to compile a Country Expert Report, Nationality Assessment, or Document Authentication.

It is the responsibility of the instructing body to make sure that they are familiar with the roles and responsible of experts. They must make themselves familiar, if they are not, and instruct the experts according the available guidelines by Tribunal and others.

### Country Expert Reports

**What is a CER?** Country Expert Reports provide objective information about a case. These reports may be used throughout the international justice system. The CER does not support one party in the case, but rather assists all parties involved in achieving justice by clarifying difficult subjects and providing strong foundations for solid decision making.

**Which countries do MECS address?** Iraq, Iran, Syria, Egypt, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Palestine, Lebanon, Turkey, Yemen, UAE, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Morocco.

**What types of issues do MECS cover in the CER?** MECS produces reports on single or multi-strand subjects including (but not limited to): Politics; Healthcare; Security; Narcotics; Displacement, Refugees, and Relocation; Society, Tribes, and Family; Women and Children; Extremist and Radical Groups; Education.

**How do I instruct you?** You send an email laying down the client's case and provide issues that the client faces, and those that you wish the CER to cover. We respond with the timescale, fee and its breakdown and other relevant information.

**Should I expect the CER to support my client's case?** No, but it can. MECS produces unbiased reports based on the objective evidence.

**Can I have quires after the CER is compiled?** Yes, if issues are not clear, we can clarify.

**Can I change issues of the case after the CER compiled?** No, that will be a fresh report and you will be charge for the previous and the new CER.

**Can I add fresh issues to the current one, after the CER compiled?** Yes, you can, but this may increase the timescale of the report and most likely incur further charges.

**Can I suggest wording for the CER?** No.

**Can I edit the CER?** No.

**Can the CER find my client credible?** No.

**Can the CER finds the overall account of the client plausible?** No.

**Do you work based on pro bono?** No.

**Can you provide a supporting letter to my client?** No.

**Can I send the client to your office?** No, unless we have agreed.

**Do you interview my client?** MECS does not usually interview the client for a CER.

**Can I ask for a particular phrase to be stated in the CER?** No.

**Can I send helpful reports from open sources related to the case of my client?** Yes, but they should not be expected to be incorporated in the report.

**Can I suggest how to organise the CER?** No.

**Can I suggest the sources that you need to use in your report?** No.

### Document Authentications

**What is a document authentication?** MECS assess documents from the region to determine whether they lack or obtain the main characteristics of a reliable document. A document authentication does not guarantee the establishment of risk to the client.

**Do you authenticate documents?** Yes.

**Should I expect the Document Authentication to support my client's case?** No, but it can. MECS produces unbiased reports based on the objective evidence. The authentication does not support one party in the case, but rather assists all parties involved in achieving justice by clarifying difficult subjects and providing strong foundations for solid decision making.

**I have many documents that needs authentication; can you do all of them?** Yes. However, you should consider the costs. Perhaps only a few vital documents should be selected.

**Can I have quires after the Authentication is compiled?** Yes, if issues are not clear, we can clarify.

**Can I edit the Authentication?** No.

**Can I send the client to your office?** No, unless we have agreed otherwise.

### Nationality Assessments

**What is a nationality assessment?** MECS nationality reports assess the likely foundation and origin of an individual within MENA. MECS is the only commercial centre to settle nationality and ethnicity disputes in the UK. MECS nationality assessments are independent and are in no way affiliated with the Home Office or any other government body.

**My client's nationality is disputed by the respondent? Can you verify his nationality independently?** Yes.

**Do you meet the client face to face?** No. The client will be interviewed on the phone while they are in legal representative's office.

**Can my client have access to the internet during the interview?** No. We ask that while the client is being interviewed, all technological devices are kept outside of the room to prevent nullifying the assessment.

**Do I need to arrange a translator for the interview?** No, MECS interviews are performed in the client's native language.

**What languages can MECS conduct nationality assessments in?** MECS are able to conduct nationality assessments in Arabic, Farsi, Dari, Kurdish Sorani, Kurdish Bahdini, and Kurdish Kurmanji.

**Is the client allowed to be in the room with others while the interview is being conducted?** No, unless the client is a minor, they must be alone during the interview.

**What happens if the client does not turn up to the interview?** If we have agreed to an appointment and the client does not show up at the last minute, a fee £300 + VAT will incur. This is to cover the expenses of reviewing the documents and background information and producing a template for the interview.

**Do I get a transcript of the interview?** No. Although parts of the interview will be included in the report, a full transcript of assessment is not provided.

### Conditions of Payment

It is the duty of the solicitor to ensure that MECS invoices are forwarded to the finance department of their firm.

**My client is privately paying for their report. Will they be subjected to VAT?** No, privately paying clients do not have to pay VAT. However, in order to do this, we will need the full address of the client.

**If my client's report is privately funded when should they pay?** If a client is paying themselves, they will have to pay for the report in advance.