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**Time for needs: Listening, Healing, Protecting. A joint Action for an Appropriate Assessment of Special Needs of Victims of Torture and Violence  
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**How can Member States better implement the acquis in relation to victims of torture?**

Isabela Atanasiu (DG HOME, European Commission) provided a short overview of the main EU legal provisions securing additional protection for victims of torture applying for international protection in the EU (Directive 2013/32/EU - the Asylum Procedures Directive, and Directive 2013/33/EU – the Reception Conditions Directive).

The need for early identification of victims of torture is of paramount importance for ensuring proper guarantees and follow up to this vulnerable category of asylum applicants. Further references were made to the relevant elements in the proposals for the reform of the Common European Asylum System, which are currently under discussion at the European Parliament and the Council. It was emphasized that the reform does not pursue a 'one size fits all' approach, but rather the setting of common protection standards and encouraging the exchange of best practices among the Member States.

Ms Atanasiu also spoke of the different modalities employed by the European Commission to monitor compliance with the protection standards stemming from the current EU asylum rules, as well as EU financial support for improving the protection for victims of torture.