

Robert Kilroy-Silk writes on...Asylum-Seekers – Government Lies Again

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So the number of asylum-seekers entering Britain has fallen. Brilliant news, except that I don't believe it, not a bit. It's just not true.

The government is, of course, delighted to be able to announce that the number seeking political asylum has gone down by 9,210, or 13%, in the last quarter of the year. But you and I know, don't we, that bogus asylum seekers are still entering the country in large numbers every day. It is just that the migrants have got wise to the fact that whilst the government comes down hard on asylum seekers, it is actually soft on immigration enter as illegal immigrant and wait for the inevitable amnesty and permission to stay.

Bogus asylum-seekers remain a major problem. We all know this to be the case. We have the example of the new camp just outside Calais overflowing with men from Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran and the Sudan, just waiting to hitch a lift on a lorry across the Channel to Dover.

The French Government might have pretended to co-operate with David Blunkett two years ago and close the infamous Sangatte camp, but it is turning a conveniently blind eye to the shanty town established near Calais.

This suits the French. They want to see the men decamp to Britain. They are, after all, primarily a French problem. International law lays down that asylum must be offered and accepted from the first 'safe haven'. That, clearly, is France. It certainly is not Britain.

But we don't have to rely on BBC TV news pictures of men clambering on board lorries bound for Dover to know that asylum is still a major problem and will continue to be so. The new E.U. Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs, Riocco Buttiglione, no less, tells us so.

The Italian says that the problem of asylum seekers flocking to Europe and Britain from Africa is a "ticking time bomb". He believes it to be so serious and the numbers involved so potentially disruptive to the society which they enter, that he has not only suggested that stricter border controls be improved but also that special camps be set up in Africa to process the migrants.

Many of those will eventually turn up in Britain from Africa. We are the preferred destination for the majority. But they will not be easily absorbed.

