



EUROPEAN  
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ANNEX 1

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**REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE  
EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND THE COUNCIL**

**Fifth Report on the Progress made in the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement**

## Joint Action Plan on the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement

Priority actions	Current status and outstanding actions <sup>1</sup>
Increasing the deployment of asylum processing staff at the islands	<p><i>The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) to increase the number of caseworkers and interpreters at the islands to 100 respectively, and the Greek Asylum Service to increase its staff at the islands to 100.</i></p> <p>59 experts are deployed on the islands by EASO. 41 more case workers need to be deployed out of which 35 have been recruited by EASO as interim staff. Following training, they will be deployed on the islands from 6 March to work together with experienced case workers from Member States and are expected to be fully operational by mid-March.</p> <p>87 EASO interpreters are deployed on the islands. 13 new interpreters need to be deployed.</p> <p>100 case workers have been already deployed on the islands by the Greek Asylum Service.</p>
Processing the Dublin family reunification cases	<p><i>The Greek Asylum Service to examine, on a case by case basis and in full respect of Article 7 of the EU Fundamental Rights Charter the application of the inadmissibility procedure to Dublin family reunification cases with a view to their possible return to Turkey, subject to having received from EASO and Member States relevant information.</i></p> <p>A query about Member States' policies and practices as regards family reunification from Turkey was drafted and circulated to Member States by EASO. Following the expiry of the deadline for responses on 17 February, bilateral consultations with certain Member States should be concluded to complete the overview.</p>
Processing the vulnerability cases	<p><i>The Greek Asylum Service to examine, on a case by case basis and in full respect of Articles 6 and 7 of the EU Fundamental Rights Charter the application of the inadmissibility procedure to vulnerable applicant cases with a view to their possible return to Turkey, subject to receiving from EASO relevant information, particularly as regards the treatment of vulnerable persons in Turkey, which would enable the above mentioned examination.</i></p> <p>The Greek Reception and Identification Service, together with EASO, are working on defining some of the vulnerability categories and developing a Standard Medical Assessment Template for the processing of vulnerable persons.</p> <p>In a meeting on 12 January, EASO, the Greek Asylum Service and the Greek Reception and Identification Service identified information needs related to the treatment of vulnerable applicants in Turkey and access to health care. EASO is working with the Greek Asylum Service, which has also received Member States' responses, to include an updated information pack on Turkey with reference to incurable/serious diseases.</p>
Speeding up the interviews and procedures for the assessment of asylum	<p><i>The Greek Asylum Service with support of EASO to introduce segmentation by case categories, interview and decision support tools. The Greek Reception and Identification Service, with the support of EASO, to continue to inform migrants. The authorities to strengthen the enforcement of foreseen consequences of non-</i></p>

<sup>1</sup> A short summary of the relevant actions is included in italics. For the specific details please revert to the Joint Action Plan annexed to the Fourth Report on the Progress made in the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement (COM(2016) 792 final of 8 December 2016).

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applications	<p><i>cooperation in the asylum process. The Greek authorities with the support of EASO to reduce the time lapse between the expression of interest to apply for asylum and the lodging of the application.</i></p> <p>The introduction of segmentation of case categories is ongoing.</p> <p>Templates on concluding remarks on admissibility and eligibility have been finalised and distributed across all islands on 30 January for immediate implementation. Following the new guidelines on merging admissibility and eligibility procedures for high recognition rate nationalities, EASO developed new Interviews and Concluding Remarks' templates. The Greek Asylum Service sent its comments on the Interviews template on 17 February, and it still needs to send its feedback on the Concluding Remarks' template to EASO.</p> <p>The Greek Asylum Service also validated on 29 January the list of country profiles, proposed by EASO in relation to the top-3 nationalities among the current caseload on the islands (Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan). Following further verifications and additions by field operations' representatives, EASO finalised and shared with the Greek Asylum Service on 14 February the structured Country of Origin references for these nationalities.</p> <p>On 26 January, EASO finalised training material, to be used for capacity building with interpreters and allowing flexible deployments across all steps of the procedure. Information to migrants about the rights, obligations and available options is ongoing, in particular through information booths and ad hoc information sessions organised through a ticketing system in Lesvos and Chios, while information booths still need to be set up in Samos, Kos and Leros.</p> <p>Tools are being developed to facilitate further the enforcement of consequences of non-cooperation in the asylum process, particularly through monitoring the whereabouts of asylum applicants while their application is pending and terminating asylum procedures in case of non-show. On the latter, the Hellenic Police should ensure follow-up on the list of archived cases provided by the Greek Asylum Service.</p> <p>EASO is supporting the Greek Asylum Service in flow management, planning and scheduling of interviews in Lesvos and Chios. Where possible, and depending on the backlog of cases, the time lapse between the expression of interest and the actual lodging of the application has already been significantly reduced.</p>
Maintaining and further accelerating the eligibility procedure for applicants from countries of origin with low recognition rates	<p>The Greek Asylum Service is processing asylum cases of applicants from low recognition rate countries of origin under the eligibility procedure with the support of EASO. On the islands of Leros and Kos, the backlog of cases at first instance is almost resolved.</p>
Improving the security and safety arrangements on the islands	<p><i>The Hellenic Police to increase the 24/7 presence of police officers in the hotspots. The Greek Reception and Identification Service with support of the Hellenic Police to increase controls at the entrances and patrolling at the hotspots, and to increase the security infrastructure. The Hellenic Police in cooperation with the Greek Reception and Identification Service to produce and test security and evacuation plans for the hotspots. The Greek Reception and Identification Service to increase the security infrastructure at the hotspots. The Greek authorities to continue providing safe areas for vulnerable groups.</i></p> <p>The European Border and Coast Guard Agency finances the deployment of 280</p>

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	<p>Hellenic Police officers to perform security related tasks at the hotspots in Lesvos (65), Chios (65), Samos (65), Kos (45) and Leros (40). Some of them are already deployed on the islands.</p> <p>While intensified controls at the entrances and patrolling inside the accommodation areas should take place in all hotspots, these are fully implemented only in Lesvos. Controls at entrances are ensured in Chios, Kos and Leros, but patrolling is not yet taking regularly place in the accommodation areas on these islands. In Samos, there are only occasional security checks and patrols by the Hellenic Police. A single Security Contact Officer has not yet been appointed by the Hellenic Police, or the Greek Reception and Identification Service. The Hellenic Police has up to now only formally published the evacuation plan for the Lesbos hotspot. Evacuation exercises have taken successfully place in some hotspots. As next steps, the plans should be finalised in Chios, Kos, Leros and Samos; regular evacuation drills should be conducted in all hotspots; and single Security Contact Officers should be appointed in the Hellenic Police and the Greek Reception and Identification Service.</p> <p>As regards increased security infrastructure, significant works are underway in Lesvos. Security related works, including fencing, lights, emergency exits, better separation of areas and guard cubicles, have been completed in Samos. Migrants are separated according to nationality and family situation in Kos and Leros. The Greek Reception and Identification Service is to request for an upgrade of security infrastructure (outer fencing, additional police booths, camera/surveillance) for the Chios hotspot.</p> <p>In order to provide safe areas for vulnerable groups, unaccompanied minors are being held within a secure area with 24-hour monitoring in Lesvos where their number has been reduced to seven as of 25 January. In Chios and Samos, unaccompanied minors are not being held in a secure area nor provided protection, while in Kos they are held in a secure area and locked at night. In Leros, there are no unaccompanied minors being accommodated within the hotspot; instead, they are hosted in specific premises (Pikpa) with the Greek Reception and Identification Service staff present 24 hours. The lack of secure areas for unaccompanied minors in Samos and Chios as well as appointment of child protection officers for all hotspots should be addressed as next steps.</p>
Appointing permanent coordinators for the hotspots	<p><i>The Greek authorities to appoint permanent coordinators and adopt Standard Operating Procedures for the hotspots.</i></p> <p>The permanent coordinators have been officially inaugurated on 18 February and officially assumed their tasks on 20 February 2017.</p> <p>Draft Standard Operating Procedures have been prepared by the Greek Reception and Identification Service, which has asked the concerned stakeholders to provide input in order to finalise the document.</p>
Increasing the number of Appeal Committees	12 Appeal Committees are currently operational, supplemented by an Alternate Committee.
Increasing the number of decisions per Appeal Committee	A legislative amendment to allow for the use of legal assistance in drafting decisions has been tabled with the Greek Parliament and is expected to be adopted soon. Moreover, the Appeal Committees have been assigned an area of specialisation.
Limiting the number of appeal steps in the context of the asylum	<i>The Greek authorities to explore the possibility to limit the number of appeal steps.</i>

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process	
Maintaining European Border and Coast Guard deployments at the necessary levels	<p><i>The European Border and Coast Guard to respond quickly to demands for additional deployments and transportation means required by an increase in return operations, on the basis of accurate needs assessment by the Greek authorities.</i></p> <p>Member States and the European Border and Coast Guard are responding appropriately to requests for deployments and transportation means for ongoing return operations.</p> <p>Readmission operations by ferry are technically possible from Lesbos, Chios and Kos. Officers from the newly established pool of forced return escorts of the European Border and Coast Guard are permanently deployed in Lesbos only (around 50-60). Escort officers may be deployed to Chios and Kos, following an official request from Greece at least 21 working days prior to the start of the deployment/operation. In order to ensure a sound management of the available resources, the possible deployment of Member States' escorts to regularly carry out readmissions directly from the other Greek islands will have to be carefully assessed in close liaison with the Greek authorities, taking into account the number of possible migrants and expected frequency of the operations.</p>
Limiting the risk of absconding	<p><i>The Greek authorities to keep a clear and accurate system of registration and case follow-up on all irregular migrants in order to facilitate the planning and carrying out of return procedures, introduce an electronic case follow-up system and continue to enforce the geographical restriction for migrants present on the hotspot islands.</i></p> <p>The Greek authorities are currently applying geographical restriction of movements to newly arrived migrants and asylum applicants who, as a consequence, are not allowed to leave the island where they arrived.</p> <p>Work is ongoing to adjust the applicable IT systems to enable the automatic issuing of administrative reports and to follow up individual cases, and as a next step, to facilitate the transmission of information related to individual cases between the Greek Asylum Service, the Greek Reception and Identification Service and the Hellenic Police.</p>
Scaling up the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) programme in the islands	<p><i>IOM with EU financial support to intensify campaigns promoting Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration among migrants, and the Greek authorities to remove administrative obstacles to swift voluntary return.</i></p> <p>Efforts to increase voluntary returns from the Greek islands continue, encouraged by the recent enhancement of the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration programme with the inclusion of reintegration packages for all participants. 212 departed voluntarily from the islands in the course of 2017. Dedicated information campaigns have taken place and will be further enhanced to promote the update of the enhanced Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration at the islands.</p>
Issuing return decisions at an earlier stage in the return process	<p><i>The Hellenic Police to issue return decisions at the same time as the notification of negative first instance asylum decisions.</i></p> <p>The technical and IT adjustments to implement the action in question are being considered by the Hellenic Police.</p>
Creating additional reception capacity on the islands and	<p><i>The Greek authorities, with EU support, to create additional reception capacity and to upgrade the existing facilities, in cooperation with local authorities whenever</i></p>

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upgrading the existing facilities	<p><i>possible.</i></p> <p>Works are ongoing in Lesvos and Samos to upgrade the accommodation and sanitary infrastructures. In Samos, better quality temporary accommodation has been set up to replace the former tent camp. This has also been the case in Lesvos, both in the hotspot and the Karatepe camp, which are being extended.</p> <p>In Chios, the Greek Reception and Identification Service and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have conducted a site review to increase the accommodation capacity of the hotspot.</p> <p>Where possible, migrants are being transferred to hotels and apartments as part of the EU funded United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' rental scheme.</p>
Creating sufficient detention capacity on the islands	<p><i>The Greek authorities, with EU support, to create sufficient detention capacity on the islands as soon as possible, in cooperation with local authorities whenever possible.</i></p> <p>The location of a detention pre-removal centre with a capacity of 500 has been designated by the Hellenic Police in Kos, adjacent to the existing hotspot. Levelling works have started. The first 100 to 150 places are expected to be ready by mid-March.</p> <p>There are currently no concrete plans to set up pre-removal detention capacity in Chios, due to a judicial ruling following complaints about the proposed use of a specific site in Mersinidi. Other options are to be explored on Chios.</p> <p>In Lesvos, the detention capacity within the hotspot was reduced from 200 to 100 places, following the destruction of containers within the facility. The Hellenic Police intends to restore the detention centre by repairing damaged containers and by adding fencing; works are to be completed by 20 March.</p> <p>In Samos, the Greek Reception and Identification Service and Hellenic Police are looking into implementation details of a detention facility to be built inside the current hotspot.</p>
Complementing the AMIF and ISF National Programmes, when necessary	<p><i>The Commission to continue to provide additional funding (emergency assistance, humanitarian support, etc.) and technical support to Greece for the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement, where needed.</i></p> <p>The Commission support is currently ongoing in line with the financial planning for 2017.</p>