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Meeting: 1288th meeting (June 2017) (DH)

Communication from Greece (15/03/2017) in response to the decision of the CM at its 1222nd meeting (March 2015) concerning the cases of M.S.S. v. Belgium and Greece and RAHIMI v. Greece (Applications No. 30696/09, 8687/08)

Information made available under Rule 8.2a of the Rules of the Committee of Ministers for the supervision of the execution of judgments and of the terms of friendly settlements.

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Réunion : 1288^e réunion (juin 2017) (DH)

Communication de la Grèce (15/03/2017) dans les affaires M.S.S. c. Belgique et Grèce et RAHIMI c. Grèce (Requêtes n° 30696/09, 8687/08) **[anglais uniquement]**

Informations mises à disposition en vertu de la Règle 8.2a des Règles du Comité des Ministres pour la surveillance de l'exécution des arrêts et des termes des règlements amiables.

DGI

15 MARS 2017

SERVICE DE L'EXECUTION
DES ARRETS DE LA CEDH

MSS group of cases v. Greece (application No. 30696/09)

Rahimi group of cases v. Greece (application No. 8687/08)

Updating of the Action Plan

Despite the significant progress that has been recorded in the conditions of detention, the reception and identification, as well as the asylum procedure, in exceptional, indeed, circumstances, the country remains under extreme migratory pressure. The fragile balance achieved with great difficulty may be considerably disturbed in case of further burden, to the detriment of the rights of international protection applicants. The main reasons for concern are: a) the rapid increase of asylum applications and b) the ineffective operation of emergency relocation scheme, due to inadequate response from other Member-States. Under these circumstances, the country cannot accept transfers of asylum seekers, as their management would place further pressure on the asylum and reception system, leading to congestion of the centres and to further delays and problems in the processing of applications for international protection and the accommodation of applicants.

A. Introduction

Ever since judgment MSS v. Belgium and Greece was delivered in 2011, the Greek authorities have taken a number of measures related to crucial matters where violations of the ECHR had been identified by the European Court of Human Rights. Such measures have been set out in the Action Plan provided by the Greek authorities on 20 July 2011 and their subsequent communications.

With the present communication the Greek Government makes an attempt to record and present the most considerable developments at national level, as to the conditions of detention of irregular migrants, asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors, as well as regarding the asylum procedure. Focus is made on the period 2015-2016, as previous years have been fully addressed in its prior communications.

The information to be presented for the two aforementioned issues, clearly indicate that, despite the constantly arising problems, Greek authorities have made a great deal of progress.

Yet, at the same time, the current refugee and migration crisis sets new standards and creates new challenges in managing irregular migration and asylum procedure.

During the last years and especially since 2015, Greece, being the main country of first entry through the Eastern Mediterranean route, has been facing an unprecedented influx of migration which places an extreme pressure on the Greek system of asylum and migration. Actually, according to the statistical data provided by the Greek Police, during 2015, 911,471 refugees/ irregular migrants were nationally arrested, while during 2016, 204,820 arrests were effected.

The EU – Turkey Statement as of 18-03-2016 led to a remarkable decline of flows towards Greece; however, it increased the needs in infrastructures and specialized manpower in the field of asylum, among others, due to the radical and abrupt increase in the asylum applications submitted.

In addition, the situation was significantly aggravated by the de facto closure of the Western Balkans route since February 2016, which prevented – and still does – third country nationals from onward travel towards countries of central and northern Europe.

Furthermore, the scheme of emergency relocation of applicants for international protection, based on two EU Council Decisions, which aims at alleviating the pressure exerted to Greece mostly in the field of asylum as a result of the disproportionate migration burden, does not function effectively due to the inadequate response from other Member-States.

Within such framework, the Greek authorities endeavor to the extent possible to deal with any arising matter and constantly review their objectives and priorities in order to adapt their strategy to the current and constantly changing reality, as well as to the related decisions of the European Institutions.

B. Conditions of detention of irregular migrants, asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors

1) Pre-return Alien Detention Centres: Number of detainees –conditions of detention

a) Pre-return Alien Detention Centres are special detention facilities for third country nationals awaiting the execution of deportation or return decisions, being detained under articles 30 and 31, Law no. 3907/2011 and articles 76 par. 3 and 81 par. 1, Law no. 3386/2005, till their deportation or return procedures are completed. Those who originate from countries where repatriation is possible and their Embassies located here cooperate for the issuing of travel documents (e.g. Pakistan, Bangladesh etc.) are detained. It is about aliens who entered and remain irregularly in the country, are fully identified and not aliens, who are detained in correctional facilities for committing criminal offences.

b) In the Hellenic territory, the following Pre-return Alien Detention Centres are operating: Amygdaleza, Tavros (24 Petrou Ralli Str.), Corinth, Drama (Paranesti), Xanthi, Orestiada (Fylakio). The Greek authorities, in view of the serious issues they are facing, aim at constantly improving the conditions of detention in the above Centres. For this purpose, the findings of the institutions of the Council of Europe (ECtHR, CPT) and other International and European Organizations related to our country, with reference to the existing conditions in some of the detention facilities in Greece, are taken into consideration to the most possible extent.

c) The above mentioned six Pre-return Alien Detention Centres have been constructed in order to accommodate, in total, (all of these six Centres), 5.737 detainees (full capacity 100%).

However, during 2015-2016, for financial reasons and due to lack of police manpower, these Centres operated, on average, at 33% of their full capacity, save for the Pre-return Alien Detention Centre in Korinthos, which reached 50% of its capacity when needed. Namely, during 2015-2016, the PRCs operated with

a total capacity of about 2,100 people, daily, as it will be demonstrated in the table below, which was not exceeded by the daily number of detainees.

Therefore, the number of persons detained in total, in all of these six Pre-return Alien Detention Centres, in the years 2015-2016, did not exceed 2,100 people, daily.

In particular, the capacity for which each Pre-return Alien Detention Centre has been constructed (full capacity 100%) and the capacity, in which it operated, on average (operational capacity, 50% for the Centre in Korinthos and 33% for the remaining five Centres), during 2015-2016 , are as follows:

Pre-return Alien Detention Centres	100% Capacity	33% Capacity
Amygdaleza	2,000	660
Tavros	370	122
Xanthi	480	158
Drama	977	322
Orestiada	374	123
Korinthos	1,536	768 (50% capacity)
Total	5,737	2,153

d) In the six aforementioned Pre-return Alien Detention Centres, throughout the year 2015, the sum of aliens detained, in total, (not simultaneously, but for a particular, different, period of time), was 13.378 persons. The corresponding total number in 2016 was 14,864 aliens. These total numbers correspond fully to the above mentioned operational capacity in which the above centers operated, daily, during the above two years.

In particular, for each of the aforementioned Pre-return Alien Detention Centre, the said total numbers of detainees (not simultaneously) throughout the years 2015 – 2016, are as follows:

Pre-return Alien Detention Centres	Total number of detainees in 2015	Total number of detainees in 2016
Amygdaleza	3,280	2,265
Tavros	2,817	3,121
Drama	808	1,561
Xanthi	1,246	1,232
Orestiada	4,009	3,768
Korinthos	1,218	2,917
Total	13,378	14,864

e) Joint ministerial decision No. 8038/23/22-ιγ/20-1-2015 (Government Gazette B118/21-1-2015) regulated the matters concerning the establishment and operation of the Pre-return Alien Detention Centres, providing details for the conditions of detention of aliens, their rights and obligations, as well as the competences and the duties of the personnel. By joint ministerial decision No. 8038/23/22-α΄/31-12-20152015 (Government Gazette B2952/31-12-2015), provision has been made for the operation of the above Centres until 31-12-2018.

In addition, for each of the above mentioned Centres, a memorandum of detainees' management actions and determination of duties and responsibilities of the detention cells' guard has been drafted and has been recently updated.

f) The Pre-return Alien Detention Centres are assigned with: a) the care for the catering, clothing, medical examination and transfer of the aliens to hospitals or health centers, b) the cooperation with jointly competent authorities, services and agencies for the provision of medical and pharmaceutical care, psychosocial diagnosis and consultative support to the persons detained and c) the care for the interpretation, when necessary.

The required medical and pharmaceutical care and psychosocial diagnosis is provided by medical, nursing and other scientific personnel of the State or NGOs or other organizations or agencies. The cases which cannot be handled by the doctors of the alien detention Centres are referred for hospitalization or examination to a hospital on duty or other suitable infirmary.

g) The living conditions in the Pre-return Alien Detention Centres are in conformity with the international living standards in closed Centres, as:

- there is outdoor space for physical exercise of the detainees
- the proportion of personal space corresponds at least to four (4) square meters
- full catering is provided, by the offer of three meals per day
- Unobstructed and direct access of the detainees to telephone installations in all the commonly used spaces is secured

- All detainees have the possibility to submit their request to the Centre's Director.

- free communication with lawyers, NGOs and other agencies of human rights protection is promoted; the data of those agencies are given to any person concerned via the detention cells' guard.

- separate religious worship places are provided
- third country nationals are allowed to keep their personal belongings of

h) Systematic information is provided to the detained aliens in relation to the regulation applied in the detention facilities, as well as about their rights and obligations, and about the right of their communication with representatives of the NGOs or other organizations and agencies. To this end, relevant forms have been posted at conspicuous places and "Information Brochures" are given to them in the language they understand about their rights with reference to the detention and the asylum procedure.

i) The Representatives of the Greek Council for Refugees, as well as of other NGOs, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have daily access to all the detention facilities and communicate with the irregular migrants,

aiming at the provision of legal assistance to ensure their access to the asylum procedure and their representation during the procedure of examination of their applications for international protection.

j) According to the assessment of the Greek authorities, the establishment and operation of the Pre-return Alien Detention Centres has contributed to the better management of the irregular migrants in the country and to the improvement of the conditions of detention of these persons, in facilities having suitable infrastructures and standards for their secure and decent way of living. Finally, it is very important that the operation of the above mentioned Centres has put an end to the detention of irregular migrants in police stations, which were not adapted to the requirements of extended detention.

k) The Greek authorities continue their efforts for the further improvement of the living conditions of the detained aliens. Within this context, there is constant cooperation with NGOs and agencies active in the field of migration.

Further, the Headquarters of Hellenic Police's plans for the implementation of the National Program of Greece for support from the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund for the period 2014 - 2020, which has been approved by the European Union, have included a series of actions related to the Alien Detention Centres and the returns, whose implementation will contribute to the further improvement of the living conditions and to the increase of returns.

2) First reception of incoming irregular third country nationals- Reception and Identification Centres

The operation of the Reception and Identification Centres, where the incoming irregular migrants are firstly admitted, is an essential pillar in the management of third country nationals entering the country irregularly.

It should be noted that the Reception and Identification Centres are not detention facilities and the irregular migrants accommodated therein are not detainees. However, the reference to Reception and Identification Centres is made in an attempt to provide a full picture of the basic progress made in the

management of irregular migrants by the Greek Authorities under a newly-adopted and improved legislation (Law no. 4375/2016/ Government Gazette no. A51/3-4-2016), in combination with the EU – Turkey Statement of the 18th of March 2016, the application of which calls for new procedures in the management of incoming irregular migrants entering the Greek islands from Turkey, always in the light of the respect of human rights.

The organization and operation of the First Reception Centres were governed, until 2-4-2016, by the provisions of Law 3907/11 (article 7-13). By virtue of the articles of Chapter B' of Law 4375/2016 (articles 8-17) which entered into force on 3-4-2016, the matters of first reception and recording of irregular migrants entering the country, were further regulated for the purpose of a more effective management of the urgent needs due to the refugee crisis and of the future and/or standing needs, as well in light of the human rights protection. The First Reception Service provided for in Law 3907/2011 was replaced by the Reception and Identification Service, an autonomous agency of the Ministry of Migration Policy¹, while the First Reception Centres were renamed into Reception and Identification Centres (R.I.C.). Under the authority and supervision of the First Reception Service, Reception and Identification Centres have been established and operate in Lesbos, Kos, Leros, Samos, Chios and Fylakio of Municipality of Orestiada.

Reception and identification procedures aim in particular at the reception, identification, registration, medical screening and psycho-social support of irregular migrants, their information about their rights and obligations, in particular about the procedure for international protection or the procedure for entering a voluntary return program, the identification of those belonging to vulnerable

¹ The Ministry of Migration Policy was established as an autonomous portfolio under Presidential Decree no. 123/2016 (Government Gazette no. A208/4-11-2016). The Reception and Identification Service belongs to the General Secretariat for Reception, which operates as a General Secretariat of the Ministry of Migration Policy.

groups and the referral to the related procedure of those who wish to submit an application for international protection .

Irregular third country nationals entering the Reception and Identification Centres remain there up to 25 days for the conclusion of the above processes, by virtue of individual decision of restriction of liberty issued by the Director of the Centre, aiming at the completion of the above processes. The incoming irregular third country nationals neither are, nor are treated as detainees. Their restriction inside the premises of the Reception and Identification Centres, for the above maximum period of time, aims at ensuring the completion of the reception and identification processes.

Applicants for international protection may stay in the premises of the Reception and Identification Centre for as long as their application processing lasts and for a period of up to twenty-five days from the day of first admission. If upon the expiration of that time limit their applications have still not been processed, the competent Regional Asylum Office shall issue, pursuant to Part C, Law 4375/2016² International Protection Applicant Card and restrictions to their liberty shall be lifted, subject to the implementation of Article 46 of said Law, regulating aspects of detention of asylum seekers³ (Article 14 par.7, Law 4375/2016).

Personnel both from the Reception and Identification Service and the office of UNHCR in Greece have undertaken to provide the incoming, in the Reception and Identification Centres, third country nationals with continuous information about their rights, responsibilities and access to international protection. They are given information leaflets translated in ten languages – dialects. These include the operation regulation, which is distributed to them translated, in order for the third country nationals to know where they are, the

² Under this Law, Directive 2013/32/EC on “common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection (recast)” was transposed into the national legislation.

³ By article 46 of Law no. 4375/2016, article 26 of recast Directive 2013/32/EC in relation to the common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection and articles 8-11 of recast Directive 2013/33 on the requirements for the reception of applicants for international protection were transposed into the national legislation.

procedures that will take place and their rights and responsibilities. Throughout the implementation of these procedures in the Centres, interpreters are present. In case there are third country nationals whose languages are not supported by direct interpretation, special equipment for tele-interpretation is available. Care to ensure decent living conditions for third country nationals accommodated therein is taken and catering is adequate, adapted to the specific needs of each population group.

The medical screening and psycho-social support unit operates pursuant to the Health Minister's Decision No Y1.F.P.oik.92490/G.G. B/2745/29.10.2013, concerning in particular the operation of the Reception and Identification Service and regulates, in detail, a series of issues associated with the medical services available at the first reception Centres set up for irregular third country nationals. The medical and psycho-social support services provided include, to the extent possible, all the procedures related to the third country nationals' medical screening and first-level healthcare, psychological assistance and sociological support, their reference to local hospital as well as assistance by medical experts to the Reception and Identification Service for the purposes of identifying vulnerable groups. Where vulnerable groups are identified, the Centre Director refers the third country nationals concerned to the competent authority.

In parallel to the aforementioned reception and identification procedures, the competent police authorities –the latest within three (3) days from the day of arresting an irregular migrant – shall issue a deportation/readmission decision (based on the readmission procedure) (article 76, Law no. 3386/2005).

As to the further management of aliens who may not – for different reasons – get directly readmitted in Turkey and especially those who spend 25 days of stay at the Reception and Identification Centres, police authorities shall issue related decisions suspending enforcement of deportation (based on the readmission procedure) and shall impose alternative measures, which provide for the non-departure from the island they are, with a view to avoid any risk of absconding (article 78, Law no. 3386/2005 and article 22, Law no. 3907/11).

However, due to the lack of Pre-return Alien Detention Centres on Eastern Aegean islands, a number of issues arise further related to the management of the said aliens, in exceptional cases calling for their detention, according to the relevant legislation.

Greek Authorities are considering the appropriate measures for having these issues settled and focus on establishing Pre-return Alien Detention Centres on Eastern Aegean islands. Already, the Joint Ministerial Decision no. 8038/23/22-65/28-1-2017 (Government Gazette no. B 322/7-2-2017) provides for the establishment of a Pre-return Alien Detention Centre on Kos island, which shall operate under the supervision of the Hellenic Police. This centre is not yet operative.

In general, the Greek Government has endeavored, as far as possible, to deal with any complex and unpredictable issue that may arise, day by day, under the exceptional circumstances that currently prevail in the field of migration, as to the management of irregular migrants/asylum seekers, both during their stay in Reception and Identification Centres and as to the further management thereof. Bearing in mind the need to maintain the required balance, the Greek Government wish, on the one hand, to protect third country nationals' human rights and properly process applications for international protection and on the other hand to safeguard that the deportation/readmission decisions will be properly executed, when and if possible, and to maintain public order and security (e.g., improvement of living conditions in Reception and Identification Centers, relief of congestion in the Centres, establishment of proper detention facilities for the cases provided for by law).

Given that everyday reality regarding the refugee and migration crisis constantly changes, it is highly probable that new legislative initiatives or operational measures will need to be taken and thus, the Greek Government reserves itself for the provision of the relevant information.

3) Unaccompanied Minors

a) Pursuant to data provided by the police authorities, the total number of unaccompanied minors detained, under administrative detention, (not simultaneously, but for a particular, different, period of time), throughout the years 2015 – 2016, in the Pre-return Alien Detention Centres is as follows:

Pre-return Alien Detention Centres	2015	2016
Amygdaleza	355	290
Tavros	185	43
Drama	184	20
Xanthi	5	1
Orestiada	121	105
Korinthos	2	25
TOTAL	852	484

b) In detention facilities for irregular migrants, supervised by the Hellenic Police, unaccompanied minors are separated from other irregular migrants and all related procedures are implemented for identifying their age, with the assistance of other services, public bodies and cooperating NGOs.

It should be underlined that unaccompanied minors are subject to protective care and are hosted – as a practical solution – at Hellenic Police facilities, within specially designated areas, separately from adults, till such minors are transferred to proper accommodation structures, according to the applicable legislation, in cooperation with the National Centre for Social Solidarity of the Ministry of Labor, Social Insurance and Welfare and NGOs, solely bearing in mind such minors' best interests.

c) As to the unaccompanied minors hosted at Reception and Identification Centres operating under the supervision of the Reception and Identification Service, special provision is made for them to be separated from

other irregular migrants. Furthermore, efforts are being made, in cooperation with the National Centre for Social Solidarity and the competent Public Prosecution Office to carry out, to the extent possible, the necessary processes for the appointment of a guardian and for the safe transferring under custody to appropriate hospitality structures for minors.

d) In addition, within the framework of measures for relieving congestion in Reception and Identification Centres on islands, persons that cannot be returned to Turkey under the EU-Turkey Statement, vulnerable groups and unaccompanied minors, are being transferred to the mainland. As of 1 December 2016, a total of 2,675 such persons have been transferred to the mainland.

e) Given that serious shortcomings have been identified in the reception system for asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors, a Reception Directorate, subject to the General Secretariat for Reception of the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction (and currently of the Ministry of Migration Policy) was established under Law no. 4375/2016 (article 27), aiming at examining, planning and implementing the reception policy for the applicants for international protection and unaccompanied minors. This Directorate, which includes a specialized Department for the Protection of Unaccompanied Minors, is expected to attain the aforementioned goals and to remedy the identified shortcomings within a reasonable time.

Given that the reception and accommodation system for unaccompanied minors will be surely amended and improved, the Greek Government reserves itself for the provision of related information in a future communication.

C. Asylum procedure

I) Access to the procedure and processing of the applications for international protection submitted after 7-6-2013

1) New legal framework governing the asylum procedure - Basic amendments resulted from it:

By Law 4375/2016 the provisions of the recast Directive 2013/32/EU about the asylum procedures were transposed into the national law. This law also reformed the Asylum Service.

Among the substantial amendments that the aforementioned law introduced, aiming at a more effective handling of procedural and substantial issues, identified so far by the experience of the Asylum Service and the rationalization of the procedure of examination of the applications for international protection, at this phase, the following should be stated:

a) Article 44 par. 3 of the Law 4375/2016 regulated the provision of free legal assistance at the appeal stage at second instance.

b) Article 60 par. 4 of the Law 4375/2016 provides for the exceptional application of special procedure at the borders, in case of arrivals of a large number of citizens of third countries, who introduce international protection applications at the borders or in transit zones of ports or airports of the country or while they remain in Reception and Identification Centres. The relevant Joint Ministerial Decision (no 13257/Government Gazette Issue 3455/B/26.10.2016) for the application of the provisions of par. 4 of article 60 of the Law 4375/2016, was published on 26.10.2016.

c) By article 22 of the Law 4375/2016 the possibility to grant residence permit for humanitarian reasons was provided to international protection applicants holding valid card, whose application had been introduced up to five years prior to the entry in force of the Law 4375/2016 and its examination was pending in second instance. The residence permits are issued for a period of two years and can be renewed.

d) Under Law 4399/2016 (Government Gazette A117/22-6-2016), which amended provisions of the Law 4375/2016: i) new Appeals Committees were established (Independent Appeals Committees), which are competent for the examination of all the appeals against decisions of the Greek Asylum Service, which were submitted since 20-7-2016. By the same law, the composition of the above mentioned Committees was amended (article 86 par. 1-5 of the Law

4399/2016) and ii) the possibility of conduct of interviews with international protection seekers by personnel offered by the European Asylum Support Office was provided (article 86 par. 13 of the Law 4399/2016).

2) Access to asylum procedure

a) During the years 2015-2016, the number of Regional Asylum Offices (RAOs) and Autonomous Asylum Units (AAUs) was significantly increased. Actually, right now, seven RAOs (7) and twelve (12) AAUs of the Asylum Service are operating in the Greek territory, in the large urban centres and in the border areas of the country.

In particular, the below RAOs and AAUs are operating:

1) The RAO of Attica, located in Athens which started operating on 7.6.2013.

2) The RAO of Thessaloniki, located in Thessaloniki, which started operating on 8.7.2015.

3) The RAO of Thrace, located in Alexandroupolis, which started operating on 19.5.2016 (The RAOs of North and South Evros were abolished by Law 4375/2016).

4) The RAO of Lesbos, located in Lesbos, which started operating on 15.10.2013.

5) The RAO of Rhodes, located in Rhodes, which started operating on 2.1.2014.

6) The RAO of Samos, located in Vathy, which started operating on 14.1.2016.

7) The RAO of West Greece, (formerly AAU of Patras), located in Patras, which started operating on 24.10.2016.

8) The AAU of Amygdaleza, which is located and operates in the Special Aliens Stay Facility of Amygdaleza, which started operating on 11.10.2013.

9) The Relocation AAU for international protection applicants, located in Athens, which started operating on 15.10.2015.

10) The AAU of Piraeus, located in Piraeus, which started operating on 4.8.2016.

11) The AAU for the fast track examination of international protection applications (fast track Syria), located in Athens, which started operating on 23.11.2016.

12) The AAU of Crete, located in Heraklion, which started operating on 15.12.2016.

13) The AAU of Xanthi, located and operating in the Department of Border Guard of Kotyli in Xanthi, which started operating on 20.11.2014.

14) The AAU of Fylakio, which started operating on 11.7.2013.

15) The AAU of Kos, which started operating on 8-6-2016.

16) The AAU of Leros, which started operating on 11.3.2016.

17) The AAU of Chios, located and operating at the Reception and Identification Centre of Chios, which started operating on 29.2.2016.

18) The AAU of Corinth, located at the Pre-return Alien Detention Centre of Corinth, started operating on 28.7.2016.

19) The AAU of Examination of International Protection Applications of citizens of Pakistan, located and operating in the Regional Asylum Office of Attica, started operating on 16.1.2017.

b) The number of the submitted applications for international protection per RAO/AAU during the two-year period 2015-2016 is as follows:

RAO/ AAU	YEAR 2015	YEAR 2016
Attica	7.833	14.146 ⁴
Thessaloniki	1.192	11.418
North Evros (seating in the Fylakio)	412 (RAO of North Evros)	448 (AAU of Fylakio)
South Evros	1.409	--

⁴ The above mentioned registrations of the RAO of Attica for the year 2016 include also the registrations of the AAU of fast track application examination, which was established on 23.11.2016.

Lesvos	692	5.095
Thrace	--	4.468
Rhodes	803	932
Samos	--	2.432
West Greece (Patras)	265	415
Chios	--	3.398
Relocation	--	3.141
Piraeus	--	2.475
Leros	--	871
Kos	--	686
Amygdaleza	589	452
Xanthi	--	386
Corinth	--	324
Crete	--	4
TOTAL	13.195	51.091

c) In order to facilitate access to the asylum procedure, in parallel with the possibility of personal appearance before the Regional Asylum Offices and Autonomous Asylum Units, Asylum Service give the persons concerned the possibility of determination of date of application registration (appointment) through the internet application "Skype". It is true that the system faces numerous technical problems; however, it has significantly contributed to the facilitation of access to the asylum procedure.

d) Besides, in order to provide access to the asylum procedure to the tens of thousands refugees who remained in the country after the closure of the so-called Western Balkans route since February 2016, Asylum Service proceeded to a massive and fast track pre-registration of applications for international protection, during which the above population was "mapped" and its further management was organized (namely the relocation, family

reunification or the process of granting international protection in Greece to the entitled persons). This massive and fast track pre-registration lasted from 8 June to 31 July 2016. Within the context of this program, 27,592 pre-registrations of applications for international protection have been conducted. Their full registration had been completed in late February 2017.

e) Furthermore, since fall of the year 2015, Asylum Service implements the European Union Program for the relocation of international protection applicants to Member-States of the European Union (in accordance with the provisions of the Decisions Nos. 2015/1523 dated 14.9.2015 and 2015/1601 dated 22.9.2015 of the Council of the European Union), with the cooperation of the European Asylum Support Office and the International Organization for Migration. The abovementioned Relocation Autonomous Asylum Unit is competent for the relocation program of the international protection applicants.

Up to 27.12.2016, the Asylum Service had registered totally 21,432 applications of persons who could fall under the relocation program, while other Member-States of the European Union had pledged 13,634 spaces. The Asylum Service had sent 13,345 applications to other Member States and 10,712 of them were accepted. Approximately 7,000 persons have departed. However, there are delays both in terms of acceptance of the relocation applications by the other Member States and in terms of the transfer of the applicants due to lack of sufficient reception spaces in the Member States that accept these applications, resulting into a delayed decompression of the hospitality facilities in Greece.

f) Further, as of 23.9.2014, the Asylum Service applies fast track procedure for the examination of the international protection applications (provided for by article 16 par. 4 of the Presidential Decree 113/2013), which are submitted by nationals of Syria and stateless persons of Palestinian origin with habitual residence in Syria, as long as they possess a passport issued by the competent Syrian authorities, in order to meet the need of immediate management of the large number of such applications. Within the framework of

the above procedure, the decision is delivered in one day. Up to 25.11.2016, out of a total of 2,099 applications for international protection which were examined in accordance with the abovementioned procedure, 1,973 decisions granted international protection.

g) From the beginning of its operational function, from 7.6.2013 up to 31.1.2017, 84,878 international protection applications have been registered by the Asylum Service in total, out of which 51,091 were submitted in 2016 and 6,346 in January 2017; out of those 9,257 persons have been granted international protection (8,073 decisions for recognition of refugee status and 1,184 decisions for recognition of international protection status). While for the year 2015 the percentage of recognition was 47.4%, the year 2016 it was 29.1%, due to the eligibility of the Syrians requesting relocation to other states.

h) The pending applications for international protection to be examined, at first instance, on 31-12-2016, were 28,030, in total. The corresponding number on 31-1-2017 was 31,122.

Analytical data of the Asylum Service for the number of pending applications, at first instance, per country of origin, on 31-12-2016 and 31-1-2017, are set out in a table attached to the affixed Annex.

3) Recruitment of the Asylum Service, training of its personnel, provision of information, legal assistance and interpretation services:

a) Recruitment: The personnel of the Asylum Service has significantly increased during the last year. While in 2014 it amounted to 218 employees and in 2015 to 290 employees, now Asylum Service runs with 654 employees. Out of them, 275 are permanent employees of the Service and 379 are employees with fixed term work contracts.

In parallel, the Asylum Service is assisted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees by the disposal of employees, as well as by the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) by the deployment of experts of the Member -States of the European Union. Yet, it should be noted that the needs of

the planned contribution by other Member-States are not fully met, in view of the constantly changing nature of such needs.

b) Training/Education: The employees of the Asylum Service, who examine the international protection requests at first instance and deliver decisions on them, are graduates of higher education (universities) of law, political and humanitarian studies and some of them hold postgraduate degrees. The newly engaged employees, prior to the undertaking of their duties, undergo compulsory training on a number of thematic units, necessary for the discharge of their duties. Both the content and the method of the training they receive are provided by the European Asylum Support Office – EASO. In particular, the method is a combination of distance learning and in person teaching, with instructors who are employees of the Asylum Service and have been certified by EASO. As regards the educational content, the basic educational units concern the legal framework governing international protection, as well as more technical issues, and in particular: a) the interview techniques, b) the ascertainment of evidence and c) the collection and assessment of information about the countries of origin of the international protection applicants. More specialized education, such as, for example, the handling of cases of vulnerable persons or unaccompanied minors, is provided to selected case-handlers. The employees dealing with administrative duties are trained to use of the electronic platform “Alkyoni” of the Asylum Service, in the registration procedure and in other administrative procedures.

It is therefore evident that, the training provided is of high level, requiring specialized trainers and time. In view of the ongoing increase in applications for international protection and the considerable number of pending applications, it is highly possible that the number of the employees already recruited in the Asylum Service, despite their considerable increase, will prove insufficient. However, before making any decision, any increase in the persons recruited and its timing

has to be assessed, in order not to downgrade the quality and the cohesion of the Asylum Service already attained.

c) Information: The Asylum Service is responsible for providing all migrants with information on the asylum procedure. For this purpose, the Asylum Service distributes to the applicants an information leaflet in 19 languages, which provides the basic information with reference to the procedure to be followed. The above information is also posted on the website of the Asylum Service (www.asylo.gov.gr). To aliens or stateless persons being in detention Centres or at border crossing points, information is provided in relation to the possibility of submission of international protection application, both by the Asylum Service and by representatives of the European Asylum Support Office assisting it, in cooperation with other authorities active at these points. Information is also provided to the persons concerned within the framework of the relocation procedure, but also to persons pre-registered and being in procedure of completion of introducing an application for international protection. Further the persons concerned are informed through internet regarding the issue of Uniform Residence Permit and the issue of travel documents (TDV).

d) Legal assistance: Legal advice is provided to aliens wishing to submit an international protection application on the way of its submission and, in many cases, legal assistance is also provided by lawyers and NGOs which are active in the relevant fields and offer their services free of charge.

As mentioned above, by Law 4375/2016 (article 44 par. 3), the provision of legal assistance free of charge was regulated at the stage of administrative procedure at second instance before the Appeals Authority. In application of the abovementioned provision, the relevant Joint Ministerial Decision (No. 12205/16.8.2016/Government Gazette 2864/B/9.9.2016) was issued, which provides for the creation of a relevant lawyers record kept by the Asylum Service. It is an integrated procedure, which, however, has not been applied yet.

At the present stage, and until the completion of the abovementioned procedures, legal assistance free of charge is provided to applicants at second instance through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, by virtue of a memorandum of cooperation between the Ministry of Migration Policy and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

e) Interpretation: The provision of interpretation and translation services in the Asylum Service and in the Appeals Authority has been awarded, after the conduct of Electronic National Open Competition, to the NGO “Metadrasi – Action for Migration and Development”, by the following contracts and for the time periods: a) from 24.11.2014 – 23.3.2015, b) from 1.4.2015 – 30.4.2015, c) from 11.5.2015 – 31.12.2017 and d) from 2.9.2016 to 30.4.2017.

Further, during the years 2015-2016, the European Asylum Support Office provided support to the Asylum Service with reference to the provision of interpretation services, within the context of implementation of the relocation program. In the year 2016, the abovementioned support was extended to the islands for the procedure of examination of requests on the admissibility and in substance.

4) Number of the applications for international protection registered during 2015-2016 (average per day, average per month and total number) - Number of decisions delivered per kind

a) The daily average number of filing applications for international protection for the year 2015 was 53 applications. In the year 2016 the respective daily average number amounted to 204 applications⁵.

In the year 2015, the monthly average number of applications for international protection was 1,100, while in the year 2016 was 4,258 applications, therefore there was an increase of 287,2%.

⁵ The calculation of the average daily number of applications was made on the basis of a calendar year of 250 working days.

The total number of the applications for international protection registered in the year 2015-2016 amounts to 64,286 applications, out of which 13,195 in the year 2015 and 51,091 in the year 2016.

In January 2017, 6,346 applications for international protection were introduced.

b) During the time period 2015-2016, the decisions below were delivered at first instance procedures:

i) 6,705 decisions granting international protection, analyzed as follows :

For the year 2015, 3,995 decisions, out of which 3,647 refugee status recognition and 348 subsidiary protection recognition decisions.

For the year 2016, 2,710 decisions, out of which 2,466 refugee status recognition and 244 subsidiary protection recognition decisions.

ii) 11,044 first instance decisions rejecting in substance, 4,950 decisions on implicit and explicit withdrawals and 17,080 decisions on inadmissibility⁶.

The above mentioned data are analyzed as follows :

For the year 2015 the following first instance decisions were issued: 4, 435 decisions rejecting in substance, 2,361 decisions on implicit and explicit withdrawals and 2, 011 decisions on inadmissibility.

For the year 2016 the following first instance decisions were delivered: 6,609 decisions rejecting in substance, 2,589 decisions on implicit and explicit withdrawals and 15,069 decisions on inadmissibility.

Analytical statistical data of the Asylum Service for the time period from 7.6.2013, date of beginning of operation of the Service up to 31.1.2017 are set out in the tables attached as Annex⁷.

⁶ The number of first instance decisions on inadmissibility includes : decisions on inadmissibility (first asylum country), Dublin decisions on inadmissibility, relocation decisions on inadmissibility, subsequent (repeated) application decisions on inadmissibility and decisions on inadmissibility for typical reasons.

⁷ The above mentioned statistical data of the Asylum Service for the time period from 7.6.2013 to 31.1.2017 are posted on the link of the Asylum Service in Greek : http://asylo.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Greek_Asylum_Service_Statistical_Data_GR.pdf and in English : http://asylo.gov.gr/en/wp-content/uploads/2017/Greek_Asylum_Service_Statistical_Data_EN.pdf and will be posted every month.

5) Number of the applications for international protection filed in the Reception and Identification Centres - Number of arrests in the islands of the East Aegean

In the five islands where Reception and Identification Centres are operating (Lesvos, Samos, Chios, Leros and Kos), from 20-3-2016 (date of entry into force of the E.U. – Turkey Statement) up to 31-12-2016, 22,284 expressed wills for introducing applications for international protection were registered (simple registration). This number includes 3,108 applications which were archived due to non appearance of the applicants and 946 revocations.

Out of such 22,284 expressed wills for introducing international protection applications, 12,482 applications were fully registered (full registration) up to 31-12-2016 at the aforementioned five islands.

It is pointed out that, from April up to December 2016 inclusive, the number of arrests of irregular migrants in the islands of the East Aegean amounted to 22,269, according to the data provided by the police authorities.

6) Number of applications for international protection submitted by aliens under detention in 2015-2016 – Number of decisions granting international protection

According to the data of the Asylum Service, from the total number of 64,286 international protection applications, which were registered in the years 2015-2016, a percentage of 8.4% (namely 5,372 applications) concerned applications submitted by persons who were detained at the time of filing of their application for international protection. From the abovementioned detained applicants, a percentage of 88% were under administrative detention and another percentage of 6.8% were under criminal detention, while no special characterization has been made, in the relevant electronic platform, for a percentage of 5.2% applicants.

In particular, in the year 2015, 13,195 applications for international protection were introduced, out of which a percentage of 19.3% (namely 2,543 applications) was filed by persons who were detained at the time of filing of their application. In the year 2016, 51,019 applications for international protection were totally introduced, out of which a percentage of 5.5% (namely 2,829) applications was filed by detainees.

The abovementioned applications were filed by nationals of Pakistan (percentage 30.96%), Afghanistan (percentage 11.56%), Algeria (percentage 10.65%), Bangladesh (percentage 8.38%), Iraq (percentage 5.6%), Syria (percentage 5.44%), Morocco (percentage 4.9%), Georgia (percentage 3.28%), Iran (percentage 2.79%) and Turkey (percentage 2.29%). Aliens of many other nationalities introduced international protection applications during the same period at percentages smaller than 2% per nationality (e.g. Egypt, Nigeria, Tunisia, Cameroon, India, etc.).

In addition, in view of the provisions of article 12 of Presidential Decree no. 113/2016 and article 46 of Law no. 4375/2016, serious effort is being made for the rapid processing of the applications for international protection submitted by detainees, to the extent possible.

During the years 2015-2016, as regards applications for international protection introduced for the first time, which it was possible to be examined, the average time of processing amounted to 72 days (from the filing of the application to the deliverance of the first instance decision).

The respective time period for subsequent applications for international protection, which it was possible to be examined, was 293 days, including the time period required for the examination and the deliverance of a decision, originally on the admissibility of a subsequent (second, third etc) application.

During the abovementioned two-year period, international protection beneficiary status (refugee or subsidiary protection) was recognized to totally 321 detained applicants.

Due to objective hardships, pending applications are still due to process.

7) Date of interview

The date of the oral interview of the international protection applicants is mentioned in the international protection applicant card, on the date that it is issued. In case of interview re-programming, an invitation for interview is delivered to the applicant mentioning the date of interview. In case of non appearance of the applicant in the interview, the procedure is discontinued.

8) Second instance examination of applications for international protection.

a) In the year 2015, 3,658 appeals were submitted for examination at second instance. International protection status was granted to 474 applicants (332 were granted international protection status at second instance and 142 were granted subsidiary protection). In the same year 2,467 decisions were delivered at second instance, rejecting the applications in substance, 94 decisions on implicit and explicit withdrawals and 465 decisions on inadmissibility⁸.

In the year 2016, 7,153 appeals were submitted for examination at second instance. International protection status was granted to 275 applicants (248 were granted international protection status at second instance and 27 were granted subsidiary protection status). In the same year 1,817 decisions were delivered rejecting the applications in substance, 231 decisions on implicit and explicit withdrawals and 167 decisions on inadmissibility were issued.

Statistical data of the Asylum Service in relation to the number of appeals submitted per year per country of origin for the period from 7.6.2013 to 31.1.2017 are contained in the relevant table, at the attached Annex.

b) As it was already mentioned, by law 4375/2016, as amended by article 68 of the law 4399/2016, three-member Independent Appeals Committees were

⁸ The number of decisions on inadmissibility at second instance includes the below decisions : Dublin decisions on inadmissibility (Appeals Authority), decisions on inadmissibility of subsequent applications (Appeal Authority), decisions on inadmissibility (first asylum country) (Appeals Authority) and out of date application decisions (Appeals Authority)

established, competent for the examination at second instance of the decisions of the Regional Asylum Offices and the Autonomous Asylum Units. The aforesaid Committees are composed of two judges on active service of the ordinary administrative Courts and one person indicated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

c) Interpretation is ensured for all the cases examined at second instance. Also, as mentioned above, for the legal assistance free of charge at the stage of appeal, on 9.9.2016 the joint ministerial decision provided for by article 44 par. 3 of the law 4375/2016 was issued, which provides for the creation of a relevant lawyers record kept by the Asylum Service. Until the creation of such a register, legal assistance free of charge to the applicants whose application is pending in second instance is provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In total, from 15.7.2016 to 30.10.2016, 1, 220 international protection applicants have received legal assistance free of charge within the framework of the said program of support of the Greek asylum procedure by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The program will be applied until the system of state free of charge legal assistance at second instance is put into effect.

9) Unaccompanied minors:

a) During the two-year period 2015-2016, 2,781 applications for international protection were in total submitted by unaccompanied minors, out of which 420 applications in the year 2015 and 2,352 applications in the year 2016.

During the same period, international protection status was recognized to 236 unaccompanied minors, out of which 212 at first instance and 24 at second instance.

During the abovementioned period, 293 appeals were submitted by unaccompanied minors, out of which 88 in the year 2015 and 205 in the year 2016.

Statistical data of the Asylum Service for the time period from 7.6.2013, when the Asylum Service started operating up to 31.1.2017, with reference to the

number of applications of unaccompanied minors per year, are contained in the tables attached as Annex.

b) By the No. 1982/15.2.2016 joint ministerial decision of the Ministers of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction and Health (Government Gazette B' Bulletin, Issue No. 335), the procedure for the ascertainment of the minor age of the international protection applicants is determined. In accordance with the provisions of the aforesaid joint ministerial decision, in the event that the representative of the Asylum Service handling an application for international protection has doubts about the applicant's age, he must inform the director of the Regional Asylum Office by a relevant, specially reasoned decision, the latter refers the applicant to a special structure of the Public Health System for the determination of his age by experts (pediatrician, psychologist and social worker). For the determination of the minor age, macroscopic characteristics are taken into consideration, which are evaluated by psychologists and social workers. The procedure applied is in conformity with the minor's rights, who is immediately and fully informed, in a language he understands, regarding all the stages of the procedure, the method to be applied and its consequences, as his consent is considered necessary. The decision is taken on the basis of the child's best interest and in case of doubt, the applicant is considered minor.

The highly sensitive issue of unaccompanied minors is a top priority for the Greek Government, which intends to take any extra required measure for properly dealing therewith. As a result, the Greek Government reserves itself to provide the related information on the entire issue, and among others, the access of unaccompanied minors to the asylum procedure.

II) Processing of applications for international protection under Presidential Decree no. 114/2010 (applications filed before 07/06/2013)

a) During 2015, 1,703 applications were processed at first instance and respective decisions were issued, out of which 18 decisions granted refugee status, 5 granted subsidiary protection and 11 granted humanitarian status.

During 2016, 131 applications were processed at first instance and respective decisions were issued; however, no asylum/international protection decisions were delivered.

b) In 2015, 370 appeals were filed before the Appeals Committees. In 2016, the same number dropped to 57.

At second instance, the number of cases granting the refugee status by the Appeals Committees was 1,263 for 2015 and 633 for 2016.

c) In 2015, 9,460 persons in total were called for examination by the Appeals Committees, while only 5,250 attended the related procedure (55%). Out of the 4,210 persons who failed to attend examination, 1,884 cases were processed based on their file, without the interested party personally attending.

In 2016, 8,310 persons in total were called for examination by the Appeals Committees, while only 4,662 attended the related procedure (56%). Out of the 3,648 persons who failed to attend examination, 1,677 cases were processed based on their file, without the interested party personally attending.

d) Until 3-3-2017, the Appeals Committees acting under Presidential Decree no. 114/2010 have examined and decided on 78,471 asylum cases at second instance, out of which 11,520 decisions granted refugee status, subsidiary protection and humanitarian status, while 40,640 decisions were negative. Procedure was discontinued in 26,311 cases, as the applicants have not renewed their asylum seekers card (within the deadlines set by article 18 par. 7 of the Law no. 4058/2012 and by article 7 par. 1 of the Presidential Decree no. 167/2014, as amended by article 24 of the Law no. 4375/2016).

Currently, there is no pending case to be processed at first instance, whilst, as of 3-3-2017, there was 4,976 pending cases to be examined at second instance.

According to the statistical data of the police authorities, as of 3-3-2017, 94.04% of total backlog cases, as it has developed, had been absorbed. The remaining percentage (5.96%) is due to be settled by 30-6-2017.

III) The above information on asylum procedure proves that the Greek asylum system has been radically reformed, with the efforts made by the competent authorities. Indeed, all required legislative regulations have been adopted in order for the Greek legislation to comply with the related European Directives and to address the procedural and substantial issues that were identified.

In parallel, the same information reflects the new challenges and hardships that our country encounters under the current conditions. The radical and sudden increase of the submitted applications for international protection, especially during 2016, mostly resulting from the unprecedented increase in the migration flows and the “pre-registration” procedure, has exerted tremendous pressure on the asylum system. Inevitably and for objective purposes, sometimes long periods, exceeding the prescribed ones, pass until the full registration of the massively submitted applications for international protection; also, a great deal of time is required for processing the applications, despite the ongoing efforts of the Greek authorities to accelerate the procedures by remarkably increasing the Asylum Service staff and establishing new and faster procedures.

The Greek Government considers the new measures to be taken for dealing with the existing shortcomings of the asylum system, bearing in mind that the expedition of the procedure should not jeopardize the quality already attained in Greece.

During 2017, the Asylum Service aims at a faster processing of applications for international protection, safeguarding at the same time the attained quality, and especially the quality of the individual procedures in the context of the asylum procedure under the EU-Turkey Statement, as well as the implementation of the legal assistance program and the assurance of the personnel’s ongoing training.

D. Conclusion

In view of the above considerations, the measures taken by the Greek Government regarding the conditions of detention of irregular migrants, asylum

seekers and unaccompanied minors and the asylum procedure, have significantly contributed to a more effective management thereof, the improvement of conditions of detention and the guarantees provided by the asylum procedure, safeguarding human rights protection.

Furthermore, Greece strives, to the extent possible, so that the asylum system properly meets the new exceptional and unexpected conditions arisen as a result of the refugee and migration crisis, with the assistance of International and European organizations and agencies such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), the International Organization for Migration and the collaborating NGOs.

However, given the fact that such crisis is still in progress and has become a flowing reality, needs are constantly changing and therefore they cannot be fully predicted.

The difficulty to meet the complex needs due to the aforementioned reasons is also proven by the fact that other EU Member-States, including those with high level of know-how, sufficient resources and organized infrastructure, have failed to fully meet their obligations for the provision of assistance to Greece, in the context of the EU-Turkey Statement, regarding the number of asylum experts through EASO (as well as FRONTEX officials) or for providing relocation spaces.

In view of the said circumstances, the Greek Government is now facing new additional and complex challenges in relation to the refugee/migration issue and has been continuously striving to confront them.

Having regard to all the above, the Greek Government is aware that it will be needed to provide additional information on issues not properly addressed in this communication and for which Greece is monitored for the execution of the present groups of cases. In addition, the Greek Government reserves itself to provide updated information and data in relation to the measures which are planned or will be taken for the issues that arise every day in the context of the current refugee and migration crisis.



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
 Ministry of Migration Policy

Asylum Service

DGI
 15 MARS 2017
 SERVICE DE L'EXECUTION
 DES ARRETS DE LA CEDH

Statistical Data of the Greek Asylum Service (from 7.6.2013 to 31.1.2017)

Asylum Applications										
	2013	Difference % (2013-2014)	2014	Difference % (2014-2015)	2015	Difference % (2015-2016)	2016	Difference % (2016-2017)	2017	Total
Total	4814		9432		13195		51091		6346	84878
Monthly average	688	+ 14.3%	786	+ 39.9%	1100	+ 287.2%	4258	+ 49.1%	6346	2021

Asylum Applications - Gender and Age ranges																					
Age ranges	2013			2014			2015			2016			January 2017			2017			Total		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
0-13	255	182	437	389	306	695	920	793	1713	7691	7115	14806	985	927	1912	985	927	1912	10240	9323	19563
14-17	272	37	309	576	84	660	615	169	784	3531	1384	4915	380	156	536	380	156	536	5374	1830	7204
18-34	2371	600	2971	5161	922	6083	6194	1465	7659	15295	6601	21896	2030	789	2819	2030	789	2819	31051	10377	41428
35-64	747	338	1085	1513	459	1972	2100	856	2956	5355	3798	9153	651	400	1051	651	400	1051	10366	5851	16217
65 and over	7	5	12	7	15	22	35	48	83	144	177	321	15	13	28	15	13	28	208	258	466
Total	3652	1162	4814	7646	1786	9432	9864	3331	13195	32016	19075	51091	4061	2285	6346	4061	2285	6346	57239	27639	84878
Unaccompanied Minors (included in the above total)	188	12	200	415	36	451	367	53	420	2035	317	2352	203	24	227	203	24	227	3208	442	3650

Asylum Applications - Region of registration							
	2013	2014	2015	2016	January 2017	2017	Total
ATTICA	4398	6357	7833	14146	628	628	33362
THESSALONIKI		412	1192	11418	1098	1098	14120
LESVOS	30	209	692	5095	1053	1053	7079
THRACE	166	901	829	4468	582	582	6946
ALIMOS				3141	965	965	4106
CHIOS				3398	388	388	3786
PIRAEUS				2475	791	791	3266
SAMOS				2432	232	232	2664
RHODES		454	803	932	75	75	2264
AMYGDALAZA	98	606	589	452	87	87	1832
FYLAKIO	122	399	412	448	50	50	1431
XANTHI		40	580	386	40	40	1046
LEROS				871	64	64	935
PATRA		54	265	415	95	95	829
KOS				686	113	113	799
KORINTHOS				324	66	66	390
HERAKLION				4	19	19	23
Total	4814	9432	13195	51091	6346	6346	84878

Asylum Applications - Countries of Origin							
	2013	2014	2015	2016	January 2017	2017	Total
SYRIA	252	773	3492	26692	2288	2288	33497
AFGHANISTAN	803	1709	1720	4371	1198	1198	9801
PAKISTAN	610	1618	1823	4695	638	638	9384
IRAQ	107	174	661	4812	724	724	6478
ALBANIA	419	569	1003	1420	106	106	3517
BANGLADESH	230	634	739	1215	106	106	2924
IRAN	131	361	242	1096	128	128	1958
GEORGIA	342	350	386	688	69	69	1835
PALESTINE	17	74	60	852	413	413	1416
ALGERIA	76	187	131	889	84	84	1367
OTHER COUNTRIES	1827	2983	2938	4361	592	592	12701
Total	4814	9432	13195	51091	6346	6346	84878

1st Instance Procedures							
	2013	2014	2015	2016	January 2017	2017	Total
Refugee Status	229	1224	3647	2466	507	507	8073
Subsidiary Protection	92	487	348	244	13	13	1184
Negative in substance	1757	4255	4435	6609	575	575	17631
Inadmissible decisions ¹	261	1451	2011	15069	1926	1926	20718
Implicit & Explicit withdrawals	242	1048	2361	2589	411	411	6651
Total	2581	8465	12802	26977	3432	3432	54257
Monthly average	369	705	1067	2248		3432	1233
Recognition Rate (%) ²	15.4%	28.7%	47.4%	29.1%	47.5%	47.5%	34.4%

1st Instance Procedures - Unaccompanied Minors																					
	2013			2014			2015			2016			January 2017			2017			Total		
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Refugee Status	7	1	8	48	7	55	64	19	83	67	15	82	6	0	6	6	0	6	192	42	234
Subsidiary Protection	4	0	4	28	0	28	26	0	26	21	0	21	2	0	2	2	0	2	81	0	81
Negative in substance	56	2	58	151	6	157	107	8	115	279	6	285	44	0	44	44	0	44	637	22	659
Inadmissible decisions ¹	12	3	15	69	21	90	74	10	84	282	95	377	63	17	80	63	17	80	500	146	646
Implicit & Explicit withdrawals	14		14	86		86	114	11	125	77	10	87	7	1	8	7	1	8	298	22	320
Total	93	6	99	382	34	416	385	48	433	726	126	852	122	18	140	122	18	140	1708	232	1940

(1): Inadmissible decisions include decisions: (a) on subsequent (repeated) applications, (b) due to acceptance by another Member State (Relocation and Dublin Regulation procedures), (c) due to eligibility to return to a Safe Third Country (Border Procedures)

(2): Calculation based only on decisions in substance (Refugee Status, Subsidiary Protection, Negative in substance)

1st Instance Procedures - Procedure, Gender and Age ranges																					
	2013			2014			2015			2016			January 2017			2017			Total		
Age range: 0-13																					
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Refugee Status	7	12	19	63	58	121	380	340	720	330	330	660	114	96	210	114	96	210	894	836	1730
Subsidiary Protection	9	7	16	16	12	28	13	8	21	12	11	23	0	1	1	0	1	1	50	39	89
Negative in substance	87	70	157	93	68	161	99	87	186	153	127	280	6	9	15	6	9	15	438	361	799
Inadmissible decisions¹	39	26	65	161	103	264	188	169	357	2725	2605	5330	397	356	753	397	356	753	3510	3259	6769
Implicit & Explicit withdrawals	13	10	23	40	23	63	108	93	201	225	210	435	39	32	71	39	32	71	425	368	793
Total	155	125	280	373	264	637	788	697	1485	3445	3283	6728	556	494	1050	556	494	1050	5317	4863	10180
Age range: 14-17																					
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Refugee Status	14	3	17	60	16	76	133	62	195	122	59	181	19	11	30	19	11	30	348	151	499
Subsidiary Protection	6	0	6	43	3	46	33	2	35	31	2	33	3	0	3	3	0	3	116	7	123
Negative in substance	91	14	105	205	25	230	162	22	184	399	30	429	59	1	60	59	1	60	916	92	1008
Inadmissible decisions¹	15	5	20	101	24	125	123	41	164	684	435	1119	121	71	192	121	71	192	1044	576	1620
Implicit & Explicit withdrawals	22	1	23	102	4	106	192	28	220	134	53	187	17	6	23	17	6	23	467	92	559
Total	148	23	171	511	72	583	643	155	798	1370	579	1949	219	89	308	219	89	308	2891	918	3809
Age range: 18-34																					
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Refugee Status	112	35	147	631	166	797	1303	517	1820	665	396	1061	105	69	174	105	69	174	2816	1183	3999
Subsidiary Protection	38	13	51	309	31	340	202	21	223	115	23	138	4	0	4	4	0	4	668	88	756
Negative in substance	859	236	1095	2443	464	2907	2597	533	3130	4108	493	4601	380	26	406	380	26	406	10387	1752	12139
Inadmissible decisions¹	93	24	117	594	87	681	791	125	916	3654	2199	5853	364	277	641	364	277	641	5496	2712	8208
Implicit & Explicit withdrawals	107	43	150	558	134	692	1316	236	1552	1178	295	1473	200	53	253	200	53	253	3359	761	4120
Total	1209	351	1560	4535	882	5417	6209	1432	7641	9720	3406	13126	1053	425	1478	1053	425	1478	22726	6496	29222
Age range: 35-64																					
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Refugee Status	32	14	46	186	43	229	596	281	877	327	218	545	53	37	90	53	37	90	1194	593	1787
Subsidiary Protection	10	8	18	65	8	73	46	20	66	28	20	48	4	1	5	4	1	5	153	57	210
Negative in substance	229	169	398	674	277	951	657	269	926	948	338	1286	74	19	93	74	19	93	2582	1072	3654
Inadmissible decisions¹	41	15	56	306	69	375	444	111	555	1512	1181	2693	169	150	319	169	150	319	2472	1526	3998
Implicit & Explicit withdrawals	32	14	46	142	43	185	271	100	371	320	156	476	47	17	64	47	17	64	812	330	1142
Total	344	220	564	1373	440	1813	2014	781	2795	3135	1913	5048	347	224	571	347	224	571	7213	3578	10791
Age range: 65 and over																					
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Refugee Status	0	0	0	0	1	1	9	26	35	10	9	19	1	2	3	1	2	3	20	38	58
Subsidiary Protection	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
Negative in substance	1	1	2	4	2	6	3	6	9	4	9	13	1	0	1	1	0	1	13	18	31
Inadmissible decisions¹	2	1	3	2	4	6	10	9	19	32	42	74	11	10	21	11	10	21	57	66	123
Implicit & Explicit withdrawals				1	1	2	10	7	17	7	11	18							18	19	37
Total	3	3	6	7	8	15	32	51	83	53	73	126	13	12	25	13	12	25	108	147	255
Total																					
	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total	Men	Women	Total
Refugee Status	165	64	229	940	284	1224	2421	1226	3647	1454	1012	2466	292	215	507	292	215	507	5272	2801	8073
Subsidiary Protection	63	29	92	433	54	487	294	54	348	186	58	244	11	2	13	11	2	13	987	197	1184
Negative in substance	1267	490	1757	3419	836	4255	3518	917	4435	5612	997	6609	520	55	575	520	55	575	14336	3295	17631
Inadmissible decisions¹	190	71	261	1164	287	1451	1556	455	2011	8607	6462	15069	1062	864	1926	1062	864	1926	12579	8139	20718
Implicit & Explicit withdrawals	174	68	242	843	205	1048	1897	464	2361	1864	725	2589	303	108	411	303	108	411	5081	1570	6651
Total	1859	722	2581	6799	1666	8465	9686	3116	12802	17723	9254	26977	2188	1244	3432	2188	1244	3432	38255	16002	54257

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1st Instance Procedures - Recognition Rates (%) ² (Countries with more than 60 Decisions in substance)			
10 Countries of Origin with the highest recognition rates		10 Countries of Origin with the lowest recognition rates	
SYRIA	99.6%	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	2.8%
YEMEN	95.0%	PAKISTAN	2.5%
PALESTINE	90.9%	TUNISIA	2.4%
STATELESS	84.2%	ALGERIA	1.4%
ERITREA	77.5%	SENEGAL	1.2%
SOMALIA	73.6%	ARMENIA	0.9%
IRAQ	63.9%	GHANA	0.7%
SUDAN	58.5%	ALBANIA	0.3%
AFGHANISTAN	57.4%	GEORGIA	0.0%
IRAN	52.3%	RUSSIA	0.0%

1st Instance Procedures - Pending Applications - Countries of Origin		
	Pending Applications (31.12.2016)	Pending Applications (31.01.2017)
SYRIA	13257	13514
AFGHANISTAN	3986	5099
IRAQ	3086	3517
PAKISTAN	2603	2933
PALESTINE	518	879
BANGLADESH	721	766
IRAN	675	755
ALBANIA	679	731
GEORGIA	303	339
ERITREA	262	339
OTHER COUNTRIES	1940	2250
Total	28030	31122

Appeals - Countries of Origin							
	2013	2014	2015	2016	January 2017	2017	Total
PAKISTAN	188	973	1026	1861	267	267	4315
ALBANIA	188	617	380	831	134	134	2150
BANGLADESH	98	336	487	516	111	111	1548
SYRIA	3	9	4	1148	105	105	1269
GEORGIA	119	326	192	361	33	33	1031
EGYPT	52	307	132	327	10	10	828
NIGERIA	36	231	237	235	6	6	745
AFGHANISTAN	28	288	181	204	35	35	736
ALGERIA	9	88	60	356	43	43	556
MOROCCO	34	55	51	173	14	14	327
OTHER COUNTRIES	295	984	908	1141	110	110	3438
Total	1050	4214	3658	7153	868	868	16943