

# Visit to Cyprus

from 7 to 11 December 2015

## Human rights of asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants



### Positives

- Increase of refugee status recognition rates
- End of the practice of detaining Syrian asylum seekers
- Reduction by half of detention capacity of Mennogeia centre
- Legislative and other measures taken to fight trafficking in human beings

### Shortcomings in the asylum system

- Excessively lengthy procedures
- Lack of legal aid in asylum procedures and limited legal advice in judicial proceedings
- Risk of deportation before the final determination of asylum claim
- Inadequate identification procedure of vulnerable persons, including unaccompanied children
- Inadequate age assessment methods

### Inadequate asylum seekers' reception and social integration

- Inadequate reception system for asylum seekers with families and children
- Restrictive family reunification rules
- Limited access to nationality
- Lengthy detention of failed asylum seekers, and of other migrants, in view of their deportation
- Cases of racist incidents

### Insufficient measures against trafficking in human beings

- Lack of prompt identification of trafficked people
- Inadequate accommodation and social aid for victims

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## Concerns

- Ineffective implementation of the GMI
- Increase of child poverty and reduced access of children to education
- Reduced women's wages and access to full-time employment
- Worsened standards of living for older persons
- Disproportionate impact on single parent and migrant families
- Lack of consideration of the impact of the economic crisis on mental healths