



CONFERENCE OF INGOs  
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

## STATEMENT ON THE SUSPENSION OF THE RIGHT TO ASYLUM IN GREECE

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**Strasbourg, 25 July 2025**

The Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe expresses its deep concern following the adoption, on 11 July, by the Hellenic Parliament of Article 79 of Law 5218/2025, which suspends for three months the possibility to lodge an asylum application for persons arriving in Greece from North Africa. This provision also foresees their immediate expulsion without any registration of their situation.

The right to seek asylum and the principle of non-refoulement are recognised as fundamental rights, enshrined in international, European and national law, and cannot be subject to derogation under any circumstances. Access to an asylum procedure is an essential safeguard for all individuals fleeing persecution, conflict, or serious human rights violations.

In this respect, the Conference particularly supports the statement of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which recalls that, even in times of migratory pressure, States are obliged to ensure effective access to asylum procedures. The swift and fair identification of persons in need of international protection is a cornerstone of any dignified and functional asylum system.

Furthermore, the Conference underlines that frontline States such as Greece must not be left to face migration challenges alone. Concrete and effective solidarity between European States—both politically and financially—is essential to ensure the respect of fundamental rights and the fair sharing of responsibilities.

The Conference calls on the Greek authorities to immediately withdraw this legislative provision, which is contrary to Greece's obligations under international law including the European Convention on Human Rights of the Council of Europe, and urges European and international institutions to fully exercise their protection mandate.