

[REDACTED]

From: GMINDER Beate (HOME) Sunday
Sent: 29 November 2020 17:38
To: P [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: Fwd: Mission on Lesbos - Flash report

Categories: Red Category

With many thanks to [REDACTED] a flash report from an exhausting weekend on Lesbos
Beate from Vienna

- On Friday afternoon I joined Minister Mitarachi at Athens' airport and together with his cabinet, the Secretary General for Reception and the Director of Technical department we went to Lesbos with a view to advance discussions with regional and local authorities on the selection of a permanent site for the new Multi-Purpose Reception and Identification Centre (MPRIC).
- The DG HOME team together with the EASO experts and geochemists from the Greek Institute of Geological Studies were on Lesbos since the beginning of the week, examining in detail all the sites that appeared to be under consideration. They took soil samples in order to proceed with chemical analysis but also water samples from nearby springs or drills where available [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- We had discussions with the two Mayors of Lesbos and we visited all relevant areas (both in the municipality of Mitylieni and West Lesbos) [REDACTED]
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- Together with the minister and his services, we also visited Mavrovouni where we inspected the living conditions and the progress made on winterisation. We met with all the actors that operate in the RIC (including NGOs) and discussed about current needs and future steps.
- We also gave some interviews to local media and the minister informed them off the record about his plans
- MoU on the Lesvos pilot: I discussed with the minister our points of concern and we ironed out the last differences but it needs some more editing work and discussion with JUST before concluding . He also asked for ECFIN support to continue the VAT exemption for the islands that is running out next summer





