



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS

Task Force Migration Management

## **5<sup>TH</sup> MIGRATION MANAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING 25 FEBRUARY 2021**

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Integration (16:30 - 16:45) (Sec Gen Migration Policy)**

- Overall strategy

Deputy Minister Voultepsi briefly presented the national strategy on integration. It will be based on certain pillars: 1) pre-integration, 2) social integration of beneficiaries of international protection, 3) prevention and effective protection from all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse, 4) integration monitoring. Each of them includes multiple goals and objectives. It will be tabled to the Greek Parliament for vote.

Beate Gminder (BG) thanked her for this strategy and praised the detailed goals and objectives. She stressed that coordination between different ministries will be needed.

Manos Logothetis (ML) said that by the next time they will have the mapping of the activities taking place in the camps.

- Update on Helios (including transfer to ESF+)

IOM said that there are more than 11000 persons having received rental subsidies while the first instalment has been divided into two parts. The process for the transfer to ESF+ is ongoing in order to submit the first draft of the technical fiche for ESF+ by end February.

BG confirmed that the adoption process of all legal texts is progressing and will probably be final by June or July 2021. The Home Affairs Funds but that the project maturation can already start now, as the funds can act retroactively.

#### **2. Migration management on the islands (other than Lesbos) and in the mainland**

##### **2.1. Health (16:45 - 16:55) (MoH, MoMA, DG HOME)**

- Preparation for ESI projects on COVID-19

BG presented the point (-> annotated agenda) and promised to treat the application swiftly upon its submission.

EODY informed that they had some difficulties regarding the incinerators, but expect to have a solution in the next weeks. They also informed they have increased the COVID testing capacity in the camps. There are only 3 camps with active COVID cases. EODY further presented their plans for the ESI projects and informed they are preparing the tenders.

UNHCR mentioned their willingness to continue helping with this process.

## **2.2. Reception conditions and reception capacity (16:55 - 17:15) (RIS, MoD, IOM)**

- Containers availability (including procurement of containers)

In the absence of the MoD, COM informed about the return of the 800 containers file to the Authority for the Examination of the Preliminary Appeals which will examine the file on 5 April 2021 and will have 20 days to

IOM has concluded the tender for 705 containers with two contractors. The first delivery of 240 containers is expected by end March-beginning of April 2021. RIS confirmed that the priority will be Samos and Malakasa.

The Technical Department said they need the exact specifications of the 240 containers in order to be prepared. IOM said they have shared the specifications with MoMA.

- Reception conditions good practices and sites that need improvement

BG mentioned Vagiochori and Serres as good examples and ML added the rubhalls in N.Kavala. He also confirmed that there was no snow in Mavrovouni and the only places where there are still tents are Mavrovouni and Elaionas.

ML also confirmed that the staff whose contracts end in March 2021 will be either replaced or prolonged.

### Islands

- New RIC on Samos

Last weekend MoMA together with IOM paid a technical visit to the new RIC in the context of the takeover exercise. Pending are still the containers and some other technical issues, but they will soon be solved. Taking over means that the contractor constructing the MPRIC will be able to intervene in the new RIC, too. The barbed wire will be removed from all internal fencing. The exercise to move people out of the islands continues.

Frontex asked about the concrete time plan for the move to the new RIC. ML referred to the natural phenomena that hit Samos in the previous year which have added to the delay and that the takeover will be between March and June. The preparatory work has been done and the concrete date could be given after the delivery of the missing containers. The duration of the move will be about 15 days, but they do not plan to announce the

date publicly for security reasons. ML expects that by the time of the move, the contractor will have finalised the connection to the water well.

#### Mainland

- Site Management Support (IOM)

IOM confirmed that Grevena is not entirely closed yet, as there are still 70 persons living there. 40-50 of those who left moved to Helios.

- Exits and transition of beneficiaries of international protection (MoMA)

BG underlined that BIPs should be reminded that, according to the EU legislation, they should stay at least 5 years in one place before they have the right to move permanently to another MS.

- HELIOXENIA (IOM)

IOM said that 13 hotels are active at the moment, the evacuation process progresses well and that after end of February only 2 hotels with the 300 BIPs from Chios will stay open.

██████████ informed that they are working on a possible extension of the scheme until June 2021 under the national budget.

- ESTIA (accommodation, cash, exits) (MoMA Sec Gen Reception, RA)

ML mentioned that more or less 50% of the persons who should exit have exited and they expect these figures to increase after the pandemic. They move fast with the issuance of travel documents.

- FILOXENIA I – update on Aharnon (MoMA Sec Gen Policy)

MoMA had no update on this issue.

### **2.3. Unaccompanied Minors (17:15 - 17:25) (Sp. Sec UAMs, MoL/EKKA, RA)**

- Statistical overview of UAMs in Greece

158 in open accommodation sites outside the safe zones. They plan to use the Danish donation for the protection of the UAMs previously living under precarious conditions.

- Shelter and SILs places

SSUAMs stressed the need for a transnational programme for taking care of the UAMs under 10 yo.

- Guardianship

A legal amendment has been tabled to enable MoMA to take over this from MoL. A new programme is implemented for the prevention of trafficking and they have discussed with Austrian authorities about a relevant project to be implemented by the end of this year.

BG mentioned the agreement that the relocation guardianship would be taken over by MoL/EKKA under the contract with Metadrasi.

EKKA informed that the 8-month interim guardianship scheme is underway and expect the permanent scheme to start in September 2021. 30 representatives are deployed in Athens, Thessaloniki, Kavala and Ioannina and all border spots except for Orestiada. More will be deployed in the coming weeks including in Orestiada, Volos and Larisa. By mid-March the total of UAMs concerned will be 1 200. SSUAMs confirmed that the discussion with EKKA and Metadrasi to have the relocation guardianship taken over by EKKA is ongoing, since the UNHCR relevant action is finishing. COM confirmed the agreement that as of 1 March the relocation guardianship will be taken over by EKKA/Metadrasi and we could follow up with a trilateral meeting.

MoL informed that they had the first discussion on foster care in the sub-group for the children protection.

SSUAMs are in contact with GAS to speed up the registration of all UAMs.

– Relocations

The caseload of the severely sick children is completed. The main problem with the rest of the relocations lies with Portugal and France, although they understand the huge COVID problem in Portugal. If the remaining pledges of the 900 UAMs are not fulfilled, there will be big difficulties in taking care of them in Greece. Lately there are around 50 cases of UAMs under 10 yo and they are trying to find more suitable solutions than shelters (e.g. SOS villages).

BG confirmed that the need for acceleration of relocations has been raised at higher level with France, where COVID is also a big issue and reason for delay. Trilateral meetings (COM-FR-EL, COM-PT-EL) should be organised.

#### **2.4. Asylum Procedures (17:25 – 17:40) (GAS)**

In terms of statistics, there is now a new directorate for this matter and HR issues fall under the HR directorate. Regarding the 54 caseworkers, GAS expects the OK from the ASEP to proceed with the call. COM suggested that we have a follow-up meeting on this issue to identify any possible savings in the relevant EMAS.

– Statistics and productivity (1st and 2nd instance)

The end of process continues to be higher than the new registrations, i.e. the decrease of the backlog continues (at 41% currently). In 2021, the Appeals Authority issued 2305 decisions, the vast majority of which are negative. Under the Project North, which is bound to finish at the end of May 2021, 753 interviews were conducted in 2021 so far. A registration hub is being set up in RAO Attica (as of 16/3). As of the same date, also remote interviews will start in the RAO Attica [REDACTED]

– Continuity of procedures and roll-out of IT tools

An IT tool about the allocation of a tax registration number to be rolled out by next Friday.

- Legal aid and representation for detainees

A total of 112 lawyers are now part of the Legal Aid Registry (legal aid at second instance).

**3. Joint Pilot Lesvos (17:40 - 18:00) (MoMA TF and DG HOME TF)**

- Winterisation and WASH facilities in the Mavrovouni site
- New Reception and Identification Centre on Lesvos
- Activation and operationalisation of MoU (Lesvos Coordination Group, etc.)

This point was not discussed.

**4. Financial Situation 2021 (18:00 – 18:20) (MoMA/RA and DG HOME)**

- Conclusions of dedicated meeting on Financial Plan

In the absence of the Responsible Authority, COM informed that the discussions on the Financial Plan are ongoing.

**5. AOB (18:20 – 18:30)**