The Commission works closely with the Greek authorities to support them in providing medical care to persons residing in Multi-Purpose Reception and Identification Centres (MPRICs), in line with the EU legislation. The Commission has been supporting healthcare provision since 2017, through the Philos project, which was succeeded by Philos II in 2019 and has also funded, through the Emergency Support Instrument (ESI) two complementary actions to mitigate COVID-19 related risks to the migrant population.

The Commission is aware of the persisting lack of doctors in the MPRIC of Samos, due to difficulties in recruiting medical personnel on the islands. In the meantime, the Commission is aware that several Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are providing medical support and transportation from the MPRIC to the nearby hospital in Samos.

The Commission is aware that through an administrative decision by the Ministry for Migration, migrants with second instance negative decisions and recognised refugees are allowed to leave the centre of Samos. However, as they do not possess an entry/exit card, once they leave, they are not allowed to get back in the facility, the purpose of which is to accommodate asylum applicants. For the persons without an asylum seeker status, the Commission provides financial support for assisted voluntary returns which are accompanied by reintegration measures in the country of origin. Equally, it finances the HELIOS programme, intended to give beneficiaries of international protection access to accommodation and to the labour market.

---

2 The first action, of appr. EUR 5 million, foresees COVID-19 testing in all the accommodation structures with the deployment of mobile medical teams by the Hellenic Red Cross. The second action, of approximately EUR 25.3 million, aims to reinforce the medical capacity and infrastructure in the Greek reception system and the local communities hosting them.