As mentioned in the reply to Parliamentary Question E-001923/2022, the Commission actively supports EU Member States including Greece in implementing integrated and effective border management in line with European values and legislation, through the deployment of significant resources and financial and technical means. Border control must always be exercised with due respect of fundamental rights, the principle of non-refoulement and without prejudice to the rights of persons requesting international protection.

The EU-Turkey Statement should continue to be fully put in practice as the key framework for cooperation on migration with a view to prevent loss of human lives at sea, stem irregular crossings and perilous migrant journeys from Turkey to the EU. The EU expects Turkey to deliver on all elements agreed in the Statement. This includes preventing irregular migration to all EU Member States and resuming without further delay readmission of returnees from the Greek islands.

Furthermore, the European Council has repeatedly noted the EU’s strategic interest in a stable and secure environment in the Eastern Mediterranean and in the development of a cooperative and mutually beneficial relationship with Turkey, and has reiterated the EU’s readiness to engage with Turkey in a phased, proportionate and reversible manner in a number of areas of common interest, subject to the established conditionalities set out by the European Council on 25 March 2021.

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1 During the previous MFF (2014–2020), Greece benefitted from EUR 422.8 million from the Internal Security Fund. In the new programming period (2021-2027) the initial allocation for Greece under the Border Management and Visa Instrument, amounts to more than EUR 1.5 billion.
