

**Question for oral answer O-000040/2012
to the Council**

Rule 115

Sylvie Guillaume, Claude Moraes, Carmen Romero López, Antonio Masip Hidalgo
on behalf of the S&D Group

Subject: Situation of the Greek asylum system

The concerns about the asylum situation in Greece are longstanding. The country is made up of islands with borders which are difficult by nature to control, its asylum reception and processing system has a recognition rate for refugee status approaching 0.6 %, and it is currently facing unprecedented economic problems.

At the end of 2010, the Greek authorities committed themselves to implementing a full reform of their asylum and migration policies, and adopted a National Plan on Asylum and Migration Management, according to which the EU is requested to provide Greece, over the next three years, with financial contributions (regular and emergency) for infrastructure and services, knowhow and training, and supervision and quality assessment of the immigration flow system, as well as emergency funding for the implementation of the transition phase of the asylum process and the first screening and reception centres.

The first quarterly report from the Commission Task Force for Greece (17 November 2010) stated that some progress has been achieved under the plan, including the creation of a support unit for asylum requests, an increased number of favourable answers to asylum requests, and the setting in place of an authority responsible for the oversight of migrants when they arrive.

The EASO has also deployed experts for Greece within the framework of the operating plan. However, the humanitarian situation in detention centres in Evros, at the border with Turkey, raises many serious concerns, according to NGOs like Médecins Sans Frontières and Human Rights Watch, and also according to the Commission. Migrants and asylum seekers continue to be detained in substandard conditions, and there is little or no assistance for unaccompanied migrant children. This situation is further aggravated as Greece still sees the arrival of around 400 migrants every day, many of them without identification documents, despite the Frontex operations in place in the area since November 2010.

How much funding are Member States providing to Greece for asylum management, under which funds and for which measures?

What further actions will the Council undertake to help the Greek authorities use the resources that have been made available to them to improve reception capacities and ensure higher standards for people in need of international protection, spend the resources appropriately, and rapidly remedy the humanitarian situation in detention centres like those in Evros?

Tabled: 20.2.2012

Forwarded: 21.2.2012

Deadline for reply: 13.3.2012