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P-003702/2020

Answer given by Ms Ferreira  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(2.10.2020)

McKinsey & Company contacted the Commission (Structural Reform Support Service) in September 2016, offering to work free of charge to report on how to improve the functioning of the Greek asylum and reception system. A report was presented by McKinsey to the Greek authorities.

While public authorities may decide to rely on the expertise of external companies, it is for public authorities to assess and review the contribution of external companies, and to make their policy decisions independently. It is clear that the responsibility for public policies, such as migration management policies, lies with public authorities. The ‘Joint action plan on the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement’ that was attached to the European Council conclusions of 2016, was elaborated independently by the Commission and the Greek authorities. It drew on the experience of the Commission teams on the ground in Greece and represents an evolution of various other policy documents, such as the Reports on the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement and the regular Reports on the implementation of the hotspots in Greece.

The Commission did not award any contract to McKinsey in 2016. More generally, in cases where the Commission hires private consultants, their input is always duly reviewed, and the Commission retains full discretion and control over the content of its policy proposals.

McKinsey & Company was awarded a contract by the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) for the maximum amount of EUR 992 000. That contract was managed by EASO.