



Recommendation 2155 (2019)¹

The situation of migrants and refugees on the Greek islands: more needs to be done

Parliamentary Assembly

1. Referring to its [Resolution 2280 \(2019\)](#) “The situation of migrants and refugees on the Greek islands: more needs to be done”, the Parliamentary Assembly emphasises the seriousness of the humanitarian situation inside the reception and identification centres for asylum seekers on the Greek islands of Lesbos, Samos and Chios. The Council of Europe needs to address this subject in an adequate manner and assist the Greek authorities in improving this situation urgently.
2. The Assembly recommends that the Committee of Ministers:
 - 2.1. invite Greece and Turkey to continue the readmission of rejected asylum applicants and irregular migrants who have arrived across the Turkish–Greek sea and land borders, in accordance with the bilateral Greek–Turkish readmission agreement as well as the EU–Turkey Statement;
 - 2.2. invite the Committee of the Parties of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (CETS No. 197) and the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (CETS No. 201) to assess the action of Greece and Turkey in combating the trafficking and sexual exploitation of migrants who cross from Turkey to Greece or vice versa; particular attention should be paid to the numerous young male prostitutes to be found on the streets of Greek cities and who seem to fall through the safety net of the usual protection measures for women and children;
 - 2.3. invite the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) to address the issue of misappropriation of public funds for refugees in the framework of its fifth evaluation round on Greece;
 - 2.4. invite the Co-operation Group to Combat Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Drugs (the Pompidou Group) to address drug trafficking in the context of the migrant routes from Afghanistan to western Europe;
 - 2.5. evaluate the human rights impact of the EU–Turkey Statement, taking into account Assembly [Resolutions 2109 \(2016\)](#) on the situation of refugees and migrants under the EU–Turkey Agreement of 18 March 2016, [2118 \(2016\)](#) “Refugees in Greece: challenges and risks – A European responsibility”, [2174 \(2017\)](#) on the human rights implications of the European response to transit migration across the Mediterranean and [2228 \(2018\)](#) “Human rights impact of the ‘external dimension’ of European Union asylum and migration policy: out of sight, out of rights?”.

1. *Assembly debate* on 11 April 2019 (17th Sitting) (see [Doc. 14837](#), report of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons, rapporteur: Ms Petra De Sutter). *Text adopted by the Assembly* on 11 April 2019 (17th Sitting).

