



## 2<sup>ND</sup> MIGRATION MANAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The meeting took place in Athens on 12 November 2020 and was co-chaired by Secretary General for Reception Manos LOGOTHETIS (ML) and DG HOME Deputy Director General and Head of the Task Force Beate GMINDER (BG).

### 1. Joint Pilot Lesvos

**BG** informed the participants about the visit to Lesvos in the days preceding the Steering Committee meeting together with **ML** during which they had meetings with the local authorities and NGOs to discuss about the current situation and the new MPRIC. **BG** confirmed the progress that had been made in improving the living conditions in the temporary Mavrovouni camp. She also confirmed that the Memorandum of Understanding between the EU and the Greek authorities for the implementation of the Joint Pilot for Lesvos would be finalised shortly.

**ML** informed that all tents and rub-halls in Mavrovouni were winterised and that 4 contingency rub-halls had been installed with a capacity of 420 individuals. He also said that 1000 heating were needed for the tents which would be placed upon upgrade of the electricity grid. Works to improve the WASH facilities and especially in terms of hot showers continued while the drainage works should be completed by early January 2021.

- MoMA to finalise the upgrade of the WASH facilities and electricity connection.

On the health situation on Lesvos, **ML** mentioned that there were 10 medical teams and that an extension of the World Health Organisation team beyond 19 December was requested. A container/medical unit would be installed for treatment of COVID-19 cases. Due to persisting problem to find doctors for the islands, there were thoughts to call for the deployment of doctors from other Member States as of next year.

- EODY to confirm in the next meeting the state of play on vaccinations.

## **2. Migration management on the islands (other than Lesbos) and in the mainland**

### **2.1. Health**

**ML** confirmed that the total number of COVID-19 cases among the migrant population so far was 950 and there had been 1 death. He said that the ESI proposal submitted by Greece concerned medical equipment for hospitals, medical clinics and mobile units, isolation areas in accommodation facilities and medical equipment for reception, accommodation and detention centres. There were 8 sites without doctors and as of 2021 the plan would be to involve more partners under the EODY umbrella. **EODY** confirmed that by the end of November there would be no camp without doctor.

- MoH/EODY to confirm the actions taken to deploy more doctors.

### **2.2. Reception conditions and reception capacity**

**ML** informed about the ongoing works for the replacement of tents by containers or rubhalls in Sintiki (to be completed by the end of November), Malakasa II and Nea Kavala and about the introduction of the entry-exit system. He also referred to the ongoing transfers from the islands to the mainland (31 765 from the beginning of the year), mentioning that they might slow down to allow the phase-out of the Filoxenia scheme. Since 1 June 2020 12 643 beneficiaries of international protection had exited the reception system. **ML** also confirmed that the move to the new RIC on Samos would take place by the end of the year or January 2021.

MoMA's Technical Department (**TD**) confirmed that the new MPRICs on Samos, Kos and Leros would be ready by May 2021.

**MoMA** informed that they were working on an extension request for ESTIA 2020 and took note that the national budget should be used for the second half of 2021 instead of EU funds.

**IOM** confirmed that the end of the year remained the target date for ending Filoxenia and that they hosted beneficiaries of international protection in 4 hotels. DG EMPL selected Helios as one of the 12 projects that would be presented as good practices in a conference.

- MoD to follow up on the 800 containers.
- MoMA/IOM to confirm the phase-out of Filoxenia

### **2.3. Unaccompanied Minors**

The **SSUAMs** mentioned that 1 473 persons had been relocated (not including the beneficiaries of international protection of whom GAS is in charge) and that the new relocation platform that would facilitate the exchange of information was ready and would be shared in the coming week with all stakeholders. **EKKA** confirmed that they had concluded the necessary steps for the interim guardianship scheme, the call for expression of interest was published and the scheme would be in place by the end of the year.

- UAM strategy to be submitted to COM by the end of the year
- EKKA/MoL to confirm when the interim guardianship is actually in place.

## **2.4. Integration**

**MoMA** informed about the agreement with the Ministry of Development to cover Helios under ESF+ in 2021 and that they waited for agreement by DG COMP.

## **2.5. Asylum Procedures**

**GAS** informed that they completed 70 419 cases since the beginning of the year and until the end of October. The monthly average of decisions in 2020 was 7 035 and they project that this number will rise in November and December. Therefore, GAS expects the end-of-process numbers to increase and to soon reach 80 000 decisions (end of process ratio) at 1st instance by the end of the year. Asylum offices are currently focusing more on the pending interviews rather than registrations and decisions, due to the second wave of COVID-19 and the challenges in the interviewing process. The increase in productivity was a combination of the embedded model with EASO, Project North, remote decision drafting leaving time for interviews to the caseworkers on the islands, RIC commanders delivering decisions and travel documents, change of the procedure for issuance of travel docs. By end of 2020 **GAS** aims to have finished all pending interviews on Lesbos, Chios, Kos, Leros, by end January 2021 to finish on Samos, and by end March 2021 to finish Project North. In terms of IT tools, the updating of the Ministry's online portal through the introduction of more digitalised asylum services and more available languages is ongoing. In parallel, GAS offices in Lesbos, Leros and Thessaloniki are already conducting remote interviews through digital means. Finally, GAS is reinforcing its Legal Aid Registry with the recruitment of 95 additional lawyers, while also offering the possibility to applicants to receive legal assistance at second instance remotely through an ip-phone. Regarding the relocation of beneficiaries of international protection, **GAS** confirmed that by the next day all BIPs on Lesbos that were supposed to be relocated to Germany would have been interviewed, while GAS was also in contact with Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Italy (St Egidio and the Italian Dublin Unit). **EASO** is also working on a bigger list to be used as basis for the upcoming relocations.

## **3. AOB**

**MoMA** confirmed that they are working on the Financial Plan 2021.

➤ Next meeting in December.