



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Migration & Asylum

The Minister

Athens, 02 June 2020

Our ref (conf): 76

Ms. Monique Pariat

Director General DG HOME

SUBJECT: Definition of Closed/Controlled-Access Centers

Dear Ms Pariat, Dear Monique,

Thank you for your recent email, asking for clarification regarding the “Closed/Controlled-Access Centers”, previously referred to as Multi-Purpose RICs, as defined in the recent amendment of the Asylum Law (Law 4686/2020).

These Centers will include:

1. Administrative Offices
2. Accommodation facilities
3. Safe zones for unaccompanied minors and families
4. Recreational space & common areas
5. Medical Quarantine Areas
6. Pre Removal facilities (as currently in Moria and Kos) for cases as provided in European & National legislation

These facilities will be fully fenced for the protection of residents and local communities. Entry and exit will be allowed for residents and authorized personnel only (Staff, Registered Organization, Press and other visitors) with the use of access cards.

Controlled access will enhance the safety of residents and staff. At the gate there will be “airport” style security to ensure no weapons or other forbidden items are brought into the Camps. We use the term “closed” to differentiate from “open centers” as foreseen in the previous law, whereby entry and exit was uncontrolled, resulting to violent incidents in the camps, use of facilities by unauthorized people and other risk incidents. These new centers are not detention centers. Detention facilities are reserved for cases as provided in the relevant Directive, as transposed into National Law.

In the new Closed/Controlled-Access Centers, Residents will be allowed to enter and exit at will, although some reasonable rules will be introduced, such as restricted entry-exit to the centers from late evening to morning hours. Such rules will respect applicable human rights, having in mind primarily the safety of the residents as well as the safety of the local population. We are working to draft the relevant Ministerial Decree, which we will share with you at draft stage, for comments.

In conclusion I would like to reassure you that the “closed/controlled access centers” foreseen in the new asylum law will operate in full compliance with the National and EU Law, as always. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any additional information or clarifications.

Best regards,

Notis A. Mitarachi