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Challenges in the implementation of the new Pact on Migration and Asylum for Greece, as a member state at the external borders of the EU

8 November 2024, 09.00-14.30 (EEST)

Location: The Golden Age Hotel,

57 Michalakopoulou str., ATHENS, Greece

The conference will focus on "The challenges of the new Pact on Migration and Asylum for Greece, as a member state at the external borders of the EU". Considering the importance of adopting the new Pact on migration and asylum, but also the importance of the effective and successful implementation of its provisions, the subject in question provides the possibility of an interesting and stimulating discussion and exchange of views on a topic that is a priority for Greece, and all EU MSs. It is also a very topical discussion in view of the current preparation of the National Implementation Plans, and a discussion that is relevant to various initiatives in the area of migration and asylum, undertaken at national and European level.

The new Pact on Migration and Asylum is a major political achievement at EU level. What is at stake now is to "translate" the Pact's legal language into an effective and efficient system for managing migration flows, as the implementation of its legislation and the issuance of the relevant executive decisions constitutes an economic, administrative and operational challenge for the reception and asylum systems of the EU Member States and especially the first entry Member States, such as Greece, which is already preparing for this purpose.

It remains particularly important to effectively protect the EU's external borders, to combat migrant smuggling networks, to promote safe, legal migration routes in line with the needs of MS national labour markets and, finally, to strengthen the effectiveness of returns, as a critical element of a rational and reliable EU immigration and asylum management system.

The European Pact expresses the spirit of solidarity between Member States regarding the complex issue of migration, which affects all EU Member States but has placed a significant burden on frontline European countries, including Greece, which have managed increased migration flows in the past and at the same time are charged with guarding the European borders.

AGENDA

Date: 8 November 2024

09.00-10.00

- Registration and welcome coffee

10.00 – 11.30

Opening of the conference:

-Angeliki Grammatikopoulou, Head of Directorate for European and International Cooperation, Ministry of Migration and Asylum

Welcoming address by:

-Manos Logothetis, Secretary General for Migration Policy, Ministry of Migration and Asylum

-Dimitra Lygoura, Secretary General for the Reception of Asylum Seekers, Ministry of Migration and Asylum

-Heracles Moskoff, Secretary General for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection, Ministry of Migration and Asylum

Section 1. Challenges of the new system to manage migration flows at the EU external borders

- Keynote speech 1:** Antonia Psyrra, Policy Officer, Representative of the European Commission in Greece, GD Migration and Home Affairs

Moderator: Maria Tzortzaki, Head of European Affairs Unit, Directorate for European and International Cooperation, Ministry of Migration and Asylum

Panel discussion

- Filio Ipsaralexi, Head of Directorate of Southern Greece Facilities, Reception and Identification Service, Ministry of Migration and Asylum
- Vassiliki Kakossimou, Head of Directorate for Administrative Support, Asylum Service, Ministry of Migration and Asylum
- Sotiria Kasnakoudi, Head of Institutional Protection Unit, General Secretariat of Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection, Ministry of Migration and Asylum
- Lieutenant Colonel Andreas Karageorgos, Director of Border Protection Division, Hellenic Police HQ, Ministry of Citizen Protection
- Thomas Papakonstantinou, Director of Controlled Access Facility for Temporary Accommodation of Asylum Seekers-Schisto, Reception and Identification Service, Ministry of Migration and Asylum

Questions and Answers with the audience

11.30 – 12.00

Coffee break

<p>12.00 – 13.30</p>	<p>Section 2. Challenges regarding new Solidarity mechanism, asylum procedure and returns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Keynote speech 2: Marios Kaleas, Governor of the Asylum Service, Ministry of Migration and Asylum <p>Moderator: Markos Karavias, Director of the Mediterranean Migration and Asylum Policy Hub, European Public Law Organisation</p> <p>Panel discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lamprini Koletta, Head of Directorate of Legal Support on Asylum and Reception, Ministry of Migration and Asylum ▪ Tatiana Papadopoulou, Legal Counselor A', Special Legal Service/EU Law Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs ▪ Vassiliki Saranti, Expert-Counselor, C4 Directorate for Justice, Home Affairs, Migration and Schengen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs ▪ Florentia Fykata, Head of Directorate for Returns and Withdrawals, Asylum Service, Ministry of Migration and Asylum <p>Questions and Answers with the audience</p> <p>Concluding remarks:</p> <p>-Angeliki Grammatikopoulou, Head of Directorate for European and International Cooperation, Ministry of Migration and Asylum</p>
<p>13.30 – 14.30</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lunch