

**Model European Union Conference 2016-06-14**

**Concerning the Proposal for a Regulation on the European Union Agency for Asylum and repealing Regulation (EU) No 439/2010 – Position Paper**

1. **Introduction – Analysis of the Current Political Situation**

The current political situation with regards to a constantly growing number of arriving refugees from all over the world puts Europe and the European Union into a difficult and challenging position. Never before has there been a comparable political crisis in which the European Union´s principles of solidarity and tolerance on the basis of human rights have been challenged to such a critical extent as witnessed these days. In 2015, more than 1.3 million people claimed for asylum in member states of the EU. Up to 4.000 people lost their life while trying to reach the borders of EU member states. The Greek government is alarmed by the fact that an astonishing number of member states within the EU repeatedly refuse to accept a European solution based on the principles of fairness and solidarity. The Greek government is furthermore questioning the ongoing process of closing national borders, intentionally preventing refugees from moving within the Schengen area. It is for that reason that the Greek government seeks for a European solution and strongly encourages reform efforts in this matter.

1. **The Situation of Greece within the Refugee Crisis**

In 2015, more than 850.000 refugees arrived Europe through Greek territory, leading the Greek administration to the just about impossible task of administering the registration of every single refugee and proving the eventual claims for asylum in a just and detailed way. In the light of the current financial crisis, the Greek government is not able to supply the amount of money necessary to guarantee a safe and human accommodation and provisioning for the arriving refugees, resulting in social tensions and circumstances, that cannot be brought into accordance with the principles of human rights. Moreover, with regards to the ongoing high number of refugees arriving in Greece, it seems to be an outrageous challenge for the Greek government to control the Greek borders and preventing refugees from moving to EU member states other than Greece. Due to the fact of national borders being closed and the Schengen agreement being put out of power, up to 70.000 refugees are currently trapped at the Greek border, a circumstance that we are not willing to accept. It is, again, for that reason, that Greece strongly encourages reform efforts in this matter and appeals urgently to all EU member states for a European solution.

1. **Greece Take on the proposed Regulation COM (2016) 271**

The proposed regulation COM (2016) 271provides a first and crucial outline of a possible solution. The draft realises the necessity of a European solution and promotes the strengthening of the cooperation between EU member states. The Greek government strongly supports this fundamental idea and urges all member states to support it to an adequate extend. However, the Greek government highly doubts that a total of 500 agents will be sufficient to tackle the issue. Financial and technical support for states under disproportionate pressure will not improve the CEAS. The human rights of the individual must be kept in mind when dealing with the current situation. By facilitating the registration, we neither prevent similar situations in the future nor create a consistent asylum policy within the common European borders.

The support of and cooperation with non-Union nations is highly desirable nevertheless these measures may not compromise our foreign interests. The Greek government doubts the efficiency and durable stability from the current agreement with Turkey. It shows that the Union is more willing to sell the resumptions of membership negotiations than to reform its own condition. A binding Union wide registration system would directly counteract the widespread fear of terrorist threats allegedly posed by third country nationals.

1. **Conclusion**

The Greek government, in conclusion, urges all EU member states to effectively work towards a European solution of the current refugee crisis. The Greek government demands a stronger mandate for the EASO. The consistent execution of the idea underlying the Schengen Convention means to turn away from the Dublin Regulation and demands a proportionate allocation of third-county nationals within the Union and the formation of common standards for granting asylum. As a consequence, the Commission should receive the authority to sanction member states based on the proposed and highly desirable surveys by the EASO.

It is unacceptable no matter how substantial a crisis within the EU may be that the European Convention of human rights could be abrogated on behalf of scattered regionalism. In this challenging time we must act with foresight, we must find a solution that allows for long-term stability within the Union and is more than just a temporary fix. This also means to reinvest confidence into the Union’s organs and institutions and actively show our ability to adapt to the given circumstances.

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