

Policy dialogue with Greece – 30 October 2013

Allocation

AMIF 259.3 M €	ISF-B 166.8 M €	ISF-P 20.4 M €	Total 446.5 M €
--------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	---------------------------

The Policy Dialogue took place in the context of the implementation of Greece's Action Plan on Migration and Asylum and the assistance provided by the Task Force Greece. The COM drew attention to serious allegations of cases of "push-back" practices that were claimed to have been carried out by the Greek authorities at sea and land borders, noting that such alleged practices could constitute a violation of the EU Law.

Asylum, migration and integration

On **asylum**, the main axis will be the strengthening of the open reception capacity and living conditions for asylum seekers and add open reception centres, the improvement all aspects of the asylum procedures, with special attention to vulnerable groups, building on the new capacity (e.g. the Asylum Service and Appeals Authority) and the establishment of a national system for continuous monitoring and evaluation. Strengthening of the **integration** of TCNs in accordance with the European Agenda for Integration is an area that needs improvements. Consistency and good coordination of the activities developed by local, regional and national administrations, as well as other stakeholders, in particular NGOs, was acknowledged as absolutely essential. The main funding source to support integration into the labour market will come from the European Social Fund, with which it is important to develop synergies. The need to pay special attention to vulnerable groups was also acknowledged and the need to support pre-departure measures for TCNs. Enhanced culture of acceptance and understanding towards TCN and beneficiaries of international protection among the Greek society in order to reduce xenophobia and promote tolerance is also a priority. Greece will continue to support and develop an effective **return** policy, through the strengthening of voluntary return and of an effective forced return monitoring system. AMIF funding should also be used to improve conditions in detention centres. Return and reintegration projects and actions strengthening third countries' capacities to implement EU readmission agreements were also recognised as extremely important.

Internal security – Borders and Visa

Greece will finalise and adopt a comprehensive integrated national border management strategy which clearly identifies the priorities and results to be achieved by the Fund. The first priority will be to develop a capacity of "first reception" to manage in an effective manner mixed migratory flows, addressing urgent humanitarian needs and the needs of vulnerable groups. The next priority is **EUROSUR**, ensuring interagency cooperation and maintaining the national situational picture both for all borders. Greece will invest in order to consolidate the management of its external land border (in particular the Greek-Turkish border) and to reinforce its capacity at its external maritime borders, which are most exposed to migratory pressure. Greece will also use ISF funding to invest in **modern technology at the border**, **ABC gates** where possible and prospectively compatible with RTP, and support to **VIS**, **SIS II** and **consular cooperation**.

Internal security – Prevention and combating of crime and crisis management

Greece's approach to EU funding on internal security should be strategic and be consistent with Greece's national security strategy and the EU Internal Security Strategy. Such approach should be structured around a rather limited number of priority areas/sectors which would constitute its main clusters/building blocks, taking also in consideration, as regards **fight against organised crime**, the priorities agreed in the framework of the **EU policy cycle** on serious and organised crime. Priority should be given to areas with particular impact and added value. **Training, capacity building (LETS)** and information exchange activities will constitute one of the pillars of Greece's strategy in this area. Other important areas are **drug trafficking**, **trafficking in human beings**, **anti-corruption**, **financial investigation** as a means to support criminal investigation in view of better detection and dismantlement of criminal networks, fight against **cybercrime**, **fight against terrorism** (in particular anti-radicalisation measures) and **protection of critical infrastructure**.