



Margaritis Schinas
Vice-President of the European Commission

Ylva Johansson
Member of the European Commission

Brussels, 26 July 2021

Dear Ministers,

Thank you for your letter of 1 June 2021 regarding the issue of cross-border movements of beneficiaries of international protection between EU Member States.

The Commission is aware of the increasing number of beneficiaries of international protection who travel legally from Greece or from other Member States, to another Member State, where they often apply for international protection again. In line with the EU acquis, beneficiaries of international protection have the right to obtain travel documents and travel freely within the Schengen area for 90 days, in any 180-day period. However, they are not allowed to remain in another country of the Schengen area, beyond the designated period and without a valid residence permit.

While discussions on the New Pact on Migration and Asylum continue, the Commission strongly encourages Member States to find pragmatic solutions to address the immediate issues at stake notably the increasing trend of this phenomenon. From the perspective of the European Commission, it is imperative that our Member States and Associated Countries cooperate in a spirit of solidarity with each other.

*Mr Horst Seehofer,
Federal Minister of Interior, Building and Community, Germany*
*Mr Gérard Darmanin,
Minister of Home Affairs, France*
*Mr Sammy Mahdi,
State Secretary of Asylum and Migration, Belgium*
*Mr Jean Asselborn,
Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Minister for Immigration and Asylum, Luxembourg*
*Ms Ankie Broekers-Knol,
Minister of Migration, the Netherlands*
*Ms Karin Keller-Sutter
Head of the Federal Department of Justice and Police, Swiss Confederation*

Email: 

Therefore, we welcome the support that the signing Member States are offering to the Greek authorities, and would encourage further sharing of best practices and solutions to challenges in the area of integration in particular regarding beneficiaries of international protection who were granted status in the country.

In order to facilitate comprehensive cooperation on this important matter, the Commission organised a first joint meeting among your services and the Greek authorities to further discuss the subject.

Please accept our gratitude for the constructive dialogue. We look forward to receiving your concrete proposals and to continuing our joint work to identify tangible solutions for a satisfactory way ahead on the matters you have raised.

Yours faithfully,

Margaritis SCHINAS

Ylva JOHANSSON