



EASO HOTSPOT OPERATING PLAN TO GREECE

- Amendment No 2 -

The EASO Hotspot Operating Plan to Greece was signed on 30 September 2015 by the former Executive Director of EASO Dr Robert K. Visser and the Alternate Minister of Interior and Administrative Reform of Greece Mr Ioannis Mouzalas and amended in December 2015.

Given the need to adjust the scope of the support measures, the amendments (marked in *Italics*), as described in Annex I, are hereby agreed.

EASO shall send a copy of the amendment to the Members of the EASO Management Board.

Valletta Harbour and Athens, 1 April 2016

Executive Director
of the European Asylum
Support Office

Jose Carreira

Alternate Minister
of Interior and Administrative
Reform of Greece

Ioannis Mouzalas



Annex I

This Hotspot Operating Plan lays down the conditions and objectives of EASO’s specific technical and operational support to Greece and sets out the conditions for participation in these specific EASO activities.

The amendment covers the period from 1 April until 31 December 2016.

- EASO Measure HEL 1 is amended as follows:

| EASO Activity HEL 1: Support with the provision of relevant information to potential relocation candidates and the registration process at the Asylum Service | |
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| Responsible authorities | Asylum Service, Regional Asylum Offices and Asylum Units (especially in Athens, Lesbos and Samos) |
| Current situation | <p>More than 200,000 migrants have arrived in Greece during the first eight months of 2015, out of which 75 % are coming from countries affected by war and violence (Syria, Iraq, Somalia, Eritrea and Afghanistan). The main points of entry are the islands along the blue border with Turkey. Identification, screening and, on a voluntary basis, de-briefing takes place at the locations of apprehension. In some places, medical screening is performed, information is provided by UNHCR and IOM and vulnerability checks are made. During the identification, the question is addressed whether the third country nationals intend to lodge an application for international protection. If the answer is positive, he/she is then referred to the Regional Asylum Office/Asylum Unit.</p> <p>Despite an efficient asylum procedure and eligibility rates at least as high as the average EU rate, the great majority of new arrivals currently does not express their intention to apply for international protection in Greece and instead wants to move on to other countries. Even persons who could benefit from family reunification clauses in the Dublin Regulation often prefer to continue travelling, regardless of the costs and risks involved, as the necessary procedures are perceived as too lengthy. Given the very high number of new arrivals, additional human resources are required to address any information gaps and provide tailor-made information on the international protection procedure and advice as to where and how applications may be lodged.</p> <p>Between the expression of intent to apply for international protection (the ‘making’ of an application) and the actual registration of that intent (the formal ‘lodging’ of the application) could be a certain time gap.</p> <p>The entry into force of Art. 6 APD on 20 July 2015 introduces a requirement for all Member States to register within 3 (max. 10) working days all applications made to the competent or ‘other’ authorities. EASO has provided guidance to Member States on how such requirements should be understood and implemented.</p> |
| Objective(s) | Potential applicants for international protection to be earlier identified and information about the <i>international protection</i> procedure provided. At the earliest time possible, registration of the intention to apply for international |



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| | <p>protection (the ‘making’) and full registration of the application itself (the formal ‘lodging’) is performed.</p> <p>More persons in need of international protection, especially those with special needs, provided with the necessary information about the international protection system in Greece in order to enable effective access to the examination procedure.</p> |
| Pre-condition(s) | - Information material about the Greek procedure for international protection and other background documents provided. |
| EASO support | <p><i>At least 2 experts per deployed place / 3 months, 2 travel days</i></p> <p>Envisaged place of deployment: Lesvos, Samos, Kos, Leros, Chios, Athens <i>and Thessaloniki/the northern part of Greece</i></p> |
| Implementation | 2016: Q1, with automatic extension to Q2-Q4, and the possibility to extend in 2017 |
| Deliverable (s) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information provided to new arrivals about the international protection procedure in Greece and advice as to where and how applications may be lodged (including information on the Dublin and relocation procedure), as well as the cooperation requirement and possible consequences of non-cooperation. Information provided on the relevant next steps in the procedure (decision process, reception facility, etc.) in Piraeus. - Support offered in identifying persons as potential ‘relocation candidates’. - All persons who express the intention to apply for international protection referred to the Asylum Service for further registration and processing of the application. - Advice provided on nationality assessment and possible security (exclusion) issues to caseworkers registering relocation candidates. - <i>Assistance provided in registering relocation candidates to manage the backlog of interested persons.</i> |

- A new EASO Measure HEL 4 is added as follows:

| EASO Activity HEL 4: Support with the implementation of the admissibility procedure | |
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| Responsible authority | Asylum Service |
| Current situation | <p><i>On 18 March, following the EU-Turkey Joint Action Plan activated on 29 November 2015 and the 7 March EU-Turkey statement, the European Union and Turkey decided to take measures to end the irregular migration from Turkey to the EU. During the meeting of the European Council it was agreed to return all newly arriving irregular migrants crossing from Turkey into the Greek islands as of 20 March 2016. This will take place in full accordance with EU and international law, thus excluding any kind of collective expulsion. All migrants will be protected in accordance with the relevant international standards and in respect of the principle of non-refoulement. It will be a temporary and</i></p> |



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| | <p><i>extraordinary measure which is necessary to end the human suffering and restore public order.</i></p> <p><i>Migrants arriving in the Greek islands will be duly registered and any application for asylum will be processed individually by the Greek authorities in accordance with the Asylum Procedures Directive, in cooperation with UNHCR. Migrants not applying for asylum or whose application has been found unfounded or inadmissible in accordance with the said directive will be returned to Turkey.</i></p> |
| <i>Objective(s)</i> | <i>Applications for international protection processed on a case-by-case basis and their admissibility assessed.</i> |
| <i>EASO support</i> | <p><i>400 experts / 9 months / 2 travel days per mission</i></p> <p><i>400 interpreters/ 9 months/2 travel days per mission</i></p> <p><i>A gradual approach will be applied for the deployment of experts and interpreters, which is subject to budget availability.</i></p> |
| <i>Implementation</i> | <i>2016: Q2-Q4</i> |
| <i>Deliverable(s)</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>- Information provided in the waiting/registration area to potential applicants for international protection.</i> <i>- Vulnerability screening conducted to prioritize cases and refer them to the appropriate procedure (especially UAM).</i> <i>- Admissibility interviews conducted, decisions recommended and applicants notified.</i> <i>- Intent to appeal recorded and channelled to the responsible authority.</i> <i>- Assistance provided in managing the workflow (scheduling appointments, flow management, document management etc.).</i> |