



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS

The Director-General

Brussels
HOME.C.4/SB

Dear Petitioner,

Thank you for your letter to the President of the European Commission, requesting urgent intervention in support of the population of Moria, in the Greek island of Lesbos. The Commission supports the Greek authorities to manage migration in full respect of the EU values and fundamental rights.

In the aftermath of the destruction of Moria camp by fire, the Commission took immediate action to work hand in hand with the Greek authorities in providing shelter to all residents at the earliest possible timeframe. The Commission has also provided funding to the Greek government to set up a new temporary camp on another site (Mavrovouni), while offering in parallel technical support and further financial assistance to carry out the necessary works on site to improve the reception conditions. Significant work has been already done at the new site, improving living conditions. All accommodation tents are fully winterised while there are ongoing works to install proper Water and Sanitation facilities as well as further flood prevention measures. At the same time, since 28 September 2020 the Commission has funded the transfer to the mainland of more than 2 700 recognised refugees and vulnerable migrants from Lesbos, while in parallel the decongestion of all islands continues with more than 31 000 transfers to the mainland since the beginning of the year.

In addition, the Commission has been supporting the Greek authorities in implementing an emergency plan to limit the spread of COVID-19 in the Reception and Identification Centres on the islands, including by transferring high-risk persons to safe accommodation outside the RICs. Following the fires in Moria, several Member States, among those Germany, have responded to our call for more solidarity and have pledged to relocate migrants from Greece or have offered in-kind assistance under the Union Civil Protection Mechanism or both. In this context, Germany's contribution has been very important. Currently, 13 Member States, Norway, Switzerland and Iceland have pledged to relocate around 5 100 persons from Greece: more than 1 916 transfers have already taken place and relocations continue at a steady pace with the Commission's coordination and funding.

In addition to this immediate support, the Commission established a European [Taskforce](#) to improve the reception conditions on the island in a durable way. As a first result of the work of the Taskforce, on 3 December the Commission concluded a [memorandum of understanding](#) with Greek authorities and EU agencies to better manage migration and asylum processes and to establish a new reception and identification centre on the island of Lesbos by early September 2021.

Migration management is a European issue, which needs a European solution. This is why the Commission proposed the [New Pact on Migration and Asylum](#), which addresses all elements needed for a comprehensive European approach to migration. It sets out improved and faster procedures throughout the asylum and migration system and sets in balance the principles of solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility. This is crucial for rebuilding trust between Member States and confidence in the capacity of the European Union to manage migration.

The New Pact also looks at ways of improving cooperation with the countries of origin and transit, ensuring effective and fair procedures, successful integration of refugees and the return of those with no right to stay. No single solution on migration can satisfy all sides. Only by working together can the EU find balanced solutions, in full respect of fundamental rights and our values.

Yours sincerely,

Monique PARIAT