

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL MIGRATION and HOME AFFAIRS

The Director-General

Brussels, 04 AOUT 2015

Ares (2015)

Dear Mr. Kokkinos,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 16 April addressed to Commissioner Avramopoulos. He has asked me to reply to you on his behalf. Please accept our apologies for the lateness of this reply. Finding a durable solution to the current humanitarian and migratory crisis in the Mediterranean is one of the top priorities of the Commission.

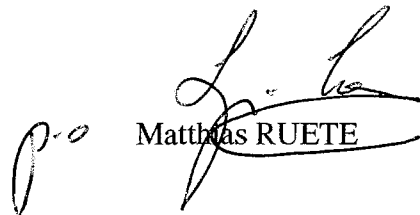
Both the Commissioner and I are aware of the challenges faced by Greece and of the need to reinforce our action to support it. In the European Agenda on Migration, adopted on 13 May, and EU Action Plan against Migrant Smuggling, adopted on 27 May, the European Commission set out in a comprehensive and detailed manner its views and intentions as regards the action to be taken for a better management of migration, including measures to counter irregular migration.

Specific measures have been proposed in the European Agenda on Migration to support frontline Member States such as Greece, including through emergency relocation measures and a new "Hotspot" approach where the European Asylum Support Office, Frontex and Europol will work on the ground with national authorities in order to process asylum cases as quickly as possible and to coordinate the return of irregular migrants.

In the meantime, the Commission is stepping up its efforts to help the Greek authorities in dealing with the migration flows by funding several projects aimed at improving reception and detention facilities, by increasing voluntary return programmes and by improving the effective forced return of irregular migrants to the country of origin.

The Commissioner is indeed planning to visit the most affected areas in Southern Europe, including Greece, soon.

Yours Sincerely,


Matthias RUETE

Mr. C. KOKKINOS
Regional Vice Governor of the Dodecanese
South Aegean Region,
1 Eleftherias Sq.
Rhodes