

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE



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TACKLING THE REFUGEE CRISIS

MARCH
2016



TACKLING THE REFUGEE CRISIS: A CHALLENGE FOR EUROPE

In the aftermath of World War II, most countries agreed to protect refugees by virtue of the 1951 UN Convention and 1967 Protocol related to the status of refugees, and through UN agencies like the UNHCR.

Today, 65 years after, the whole Europe is called on to respect the provisions of the UN Convention and Protocol and give solutions to the refugee crisis on the basis of a main principle:

Life comes first and no one should have to die crossing a border.



MISSION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE

During the inter-ministerial meeting of February 2, 2016, regarding the refugee crisis, acceleration of works has been decided for the timely completion of Hot Spots in the five islands of Samos, Lesvos, Chios, Kos and Leros, as well as the two Relocation Centers in the mainland.

In particular, it was decided that the Ministry of National Defence shall undertake to:

1. Directly appoint provisional coordinators in the 5 Hot Spots in the islands.
2. Oversee and assist by any available means to the completion of construction works, in order that Hot Spots are ready to operate within the next two weeks.
3. Allocate two military camps of 4,000 people accommodation capacity for the construction of Relocation Centers; at the same time, to promptly deliver and operate the Relocation Centers.

MISSION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF C.C.B.M.R.C. and L.C.C.M.R.C.

In addition, the Ministry of National Defence in cooperation with the Asylum Service and the First Reception Service undertook by virtue of law 4368/2016 to manage and coordinate other public services and authorities, social organizations and NGOs assisting in the operation of the Hot Spots & Relocation Centers, regarding exclusively the transport, accommodation, feeding and health care of refugees, for as long as required.

In this context and for the achievement of the aforementioned purposes, a Central Coordinating Body for the Management of the Refugee Crisis (C.C.B.M.R.C.) and Local Coordinating Centers for the management of the Refugee Crisis (L.C.C.M.R.C.) are established in the Hellenic National Defence General Staff.





THE PROGRESS OF THE MISSION

One month following assignment of the aforesaid task, the Ministry of National Defence, constructed four of the five Hot Spots in the Greek Islands (the one in the island of Kos is still under construction) and 4 Relocation Centers.

Furthermore, the Ministry of National Defence, has made available a total of € 1,590,500 and has totally allocated 772 Military Officers and 4.165 soldiers. Transfers carried out are not included in the aforementioned amount.



RELOCATION CENTERS

Schisto - Piraeus

The Relocation Center in the area of “Schisto” was constructed in a former military camp. It is situated 8 km away from the Piraeus Port and 563 km away from the Greek borders at “Eidomeni”. It covers an area of 37,000 sq.m. The accommodation capacity is 4,000 people.

BEFORE



TODAY





Schisto - Piraeus

TODAY



Diavata - Thessaloniki

The Relocation Center in the area of “Diavata” was constructed in a former military camp. It is situated 15 km away from the city of Thessaloniki and 66 km away from the Greek borders at “Eidomeni”. It covers an area of 49,500 sq.m. and was constructed in 13 days. The accommodation capacity is 4,000 people.

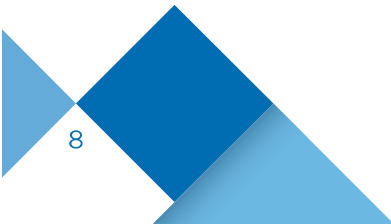
BEFORE



BEFORE



TODAY



Diavata - Thessaloniki

TODAY





Cherso - Kilkis

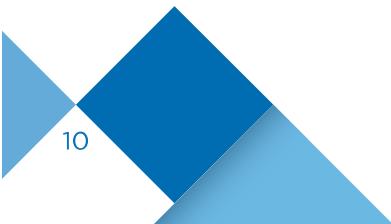
The Relocation Center in the area of “Cherso” in northern Greece was constructed in a former military camp. It is situated 18 km away from Kilkis town and approx. 36 km away from the Greek borders at “Eidomeni”. It covers an area of 29.930 sq.m. The accommodation capacity is 4,000 people.

TODAY



N. Kavala - Kilkis

The Relocation Center in the area of “N. Kavala” in northern Greece was constructed in a former runway. It is situated 28 km away from Kilkis town and approx. 23 km away from the Greek borders at “Eidomeni”. It covers an area of 78,973 sq. m. The accommodation capacity is 4,000 people.



BEFORE



N. Kavala - Kilkis



TODAY





HOT SPOTS

REFUGEE FLOWS TO THE GREEK ISLANDS

In order to tackle the refugee crisis, the Greek Islands allocate disproportionate financial and human resources to their capacity.

GREEK ISLANDS	POPULATION APPROX.	JAN 2016- FEB 2016	2015	TOTAL	%
LESVOS	86,000	71,793	500,728	572,521	57,4
CHIOS	51,000	26,732	117,152	143,884	14,4
SAMOS	33,000	9,085	104,126	113,211	11,3
KOS	33,000	3,313	58,135	61,448	6,2
LEROS	8,000	7,660	35,690	43,350	4,3
TOTAL (5 islands)	178,000	118,583	815,831	934,414	93,6
TOTAL (All areas)		120,966	876,232	997,198	100

Source: National Coordination Border Control Center, Immigration and Asylum



- Relocation Centers
- Hot Spots

Lesvos

The Hot Spot in Lesvos Island was constructed in a former military camp. It is situated 10 km away from the port of “Mytilini”, the capital city of the island. The accommodation capacity is 1500 people and the registration capacity is 4,000 people.

BEFORE





Lesvos

TODAY



TODAY

Lesvos





Chios

The Hot Spot in Chios Island was constructed in an industrial area which is 12 km away from the port of “Chios City”, the capital of the island. The accommodation capacity is 1,000 people and the registration capacity is 2,000 people.

BEFORE



TODAY





Samos

The Hot Spot in Samos Island was constructed in an already existing immigration camp. It is situated 5 km away from the port of “Vathi”, the capital city of the island. The accommodation capacity is 1,000 people and the registration capacity shall be set upon completion of the new sections. The Hot Spot is operational.

BEFORE



TODAY





Kos

The Hot Spot in Kos Island is under construction in a former military camp. It is situated 15 km away from the port of the island. Upon completion of its construction by the end of March 2016, the Hot Spot shall accommodate 1,000 people. The registration capacity shall be set upon completion of the construction.

A special feature of the island is that Kos is purely a tourist destination and is visited by 1,000,000 – 1,200,000 tourists every year.

BEFORE



TODAY



Leros

The Hot Spot in Leros Island is situated 1 km away from the port of the island in “Lakki”.
The accommodation capacity is 1,000 people and the registration capacity is 500 people.

BEFORE



TODAY





“

I congratulate the chief of joint general staff, the chiefs of general staffs, the officers, the non commissioned officers, the soldiers, the women and the men of the armed forces who did not spare efforts and excellently carried out the mission they were entrusted.

They proved that they can effectively act in times of peace as in times of war serving with loyalty their country.

”

Panos Kammenos

Minister of National Defence



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