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Report

**to the Greek Government
on the visits to Greece
carried out by the European Committee
for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman
or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT)**

from 13 to 18 April and 19 to 25 July 2016

The Greek Government has requested the publication of this report and of its response. The Government's response is set out in document CPT/Inf (2017) 26.

Strasbourg, 26 September 2017

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Copy of the letter transmitting the CPT's report

Mr Stelios Perrakis
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Greece
to the Council of Europe
21 place Broglie
67000 Strasbourg

Strasbourg, 23 November 2016

Dear Ambassador,

In pursuance of Article 10, paragraph 1, of the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, I have the honour to enclose herewith the report drawn up by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) following its visits to Greece from 13 to 18 April and 19 to 25 July 2016. The report was adopted by the CPT at its 91st meeting, held from 7 to 11 November 2016.

The various recommendations, comments and requests for information formulated by the CPT are highlighted in bold in the body of the report. As regards more particularly the CPT's recommendations, having regard to Article 10, paragraph 1, of the Convention, the Committee requests the Greek authorities to provide **within three months** a response giving a full account of action taken to implement them. The CPT trusts that it will also be possible for the Greek authorities to provide, in their response, reactions to the comments formulated in this report as well as replies to the requests for information made.

As regards the recommendations in paragraphs 47, 55 and 57, the CPT requests a response within one month.

I am at your entire disposal if you have any questions concerning either the CPT's report or the future procedure.

Yours sincerely,

Mykola Gnatovskyy
President of the European Committee for the
Prevention of Torture and Inhuman
or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The primary purpose of the CPT's April and July 2016 visits to Greece was to examine the situation of refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants who were held in Reception and Identification Centres (RICs) on the Aegean islands following the entry into force of the European Union-Turkey Statement on 20 March 2016. The visits also examined the particular situation of foreign national children deprived of their liberty in Greece. In July 2016, the CPT also assessed the situation of foreign nationals held under aliens' legislation in Athens and Thessaloniki, and examined the treatment of criminal suspects held in police custody and the safeguards afforded to them. The cooperation received by the Greek authorities was generally very good; however, no response was received to the three immediate observations made by the delegation at the end of the July visit.

Reception and Identification Centres (so-called "hotspots")

In April 2016, shortly after the establishments of the RICs, the CPT's delegation visited the Moria and VIAL Centres on the islands of Lesbos and Chios respectively. Some isolated allegations of ill-treatment by police officers were received, notably in respect of unaccompanied children in Moria Centre, and inter-detainee violence was particularly high and a number of foreign nationals complained of feeling unsafe. Further, the conditions of detention deteriorated rapidly as the Centres became overcrowded and had to accommodate people for weeks on end rather than a few days as intended. There were problems with the quality of drinking water, food, basic health care provision and addressing the needs of vulnerable groups. The conditions in the closed Section B of Moria Centre were particularly poor and could be considered as inhuman and degrading. The legal safeguards in place were deficient and the legality of the detention of some detainees questionable.

At the time of the July 2016 visit, the Moria and VIAL Centres and the Vathi Centre on the island of Samos were no longer closed centres. Nevertheless, the situation remained highly explosive and many of the problems identified in April persisted, such as increasing anxiety and frustration due to uncertainty about the future; a perception of insecurity; inadequate material conditions and severe overcrowding; lack of coordination of health-care services and insufficient provision of information and legal aid.

Foreign national children deprived of their liberty

In the course of the 2016 visits, the CPT noted that the structural problem of a shortage of suitable accommodation for unaccompanied or separated children (UASC) in dedicated open shelters had become acute. As a result, several hundred children continued to be routinely held for lengthy periods in detention. The CPT acknowledges the efforts being undertaken by the Greek authorities to find additional places. Nevertheless, it considers that the Greek authorities should review their approach with regard to "protective custody" of UASC and take the necessary measures to end immigration detention of UASC. This stance is reinforced by the findings of lack of care and protection and the poor living conditions afforded to UASC in the RICs. Further, proper age assessments should be carried out and appeal procedures put in place.

The CPT is again critical of the care and poor living conditions offered to UASC children held at the Amygdaleza and Petrou Ralli Special holding facilities. The Amygdaleza holding facility with its warehouse environment is totally unsuitable to meet the needs of UASC and the Petrou Ralli holding facility, which operates like a large police detention facility, is even less well equipped to look after them. Placing UASC, many of whom have undergone traumatic journeys and experiences, in these detention facilities for several weeks or months is difficult to comprehend. The CPT recommends that the Greek authorities immediately stop using Petrou Ralli for holding UASC and it reiterates that Amygdaleza should no longer be used for detaining UASC.

The CPT also found that the conditions of detention at Mygdonia Border Guard Station near Thessaloniki were totally unsuitable. Placing UASC for several days or even weeks in police custody for “protection” purposes without any assistance and psycho-social support instead of providing them with accommodation in an appropriate shelter is unacceptable. The children’s welfare should come first which, by definition, should exclude accommodating them in police or border guard stations. Further, the detention of parents with children in police and border guard stations should be ended.

Adults in immigration detention (other than RICs)

A number of credible allegations of physical ill-treatment of foreign national detainees by police officers were received at Thessaloniki and Petrou Ralli Special holding facilities. Rigorous action should be taken to counter acts of ill-treatment. Further, the conditions of detention in these two facilities were totally inadequate for holding irregular migrants for short periods of time, let alone for weeks or months. At Thessaloniki, immediate steps should be taken to ensure inter alia that every person detained is provided with a clean mattress and bedding, that all cells are disinfested, and that, for public health reasons, medical screening is carried out upon admission. The indifferent attitude of staff towards detainees at this facility should be addressed by putting in place a new robust management. At Petrou Ralli, action is required to address the state of the filthy, stuffy and infested cells and to improve the poor provision of health-care services. Further, at neither of these two facilities nor at the Athens airport holding facilities were detainees offered at least one hour of outdoor exercise every day. There is also a need to ensure all detainees who do not speak Greek are informed about their situation in a language they understand.

As for Drapetzone Police Station, the dungeon-like living conditions were squalid and detainees were never offered access to fresh air. The CPT considers that holding people in such conditions could be considered as inhuman and degrading as well as representing a public health risk. The Greek authorities are requested to take this police station definitively out of service.

Treatment of criminal suspects detained by the police

In the course of the July 2016 visit, a number of credible allegations of physical ill-treatment of detained criminal suspects (including juveniles) were received. Determined action is required to tackle the widespread and deep-rooted problem of ill-treatment by the police and to promote a fundamentally different approach towards methods of police investigation. This requires inter alia rigorous recruitment procedures, improved professional training and the introduction of electronic recording of police interviews. Referencing the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, the CPT recalls the necessity for investigations into allegations of ill-treatment to be effective and requests information on a number of cases raised in the report on its 2015 visit to Greece.

The formal safeguards against ill-treatment continue to remain ineffective in practice. The CPT reiterates that access to a lawyer should apply from the very outset of deprivation of liberty by the police – prior to and during questioning by security police officers – when the risk of intimidation and physical ill-treatment is greatest. Further, to improve access to a doctor, a system of visits to police stations should be established and a police officer trained in first aid and in cardiopulmonary resuscitation should always be on duty in detention facilities. In addition, information on rights should be systematically provided to detained persons in a language they understand and should include a section on how to make a complaint.

The material conditions in the police stations visited were totally unsuitable for holding persons for longer than 24 hours given the lack of any outdoor exercise yard. In addition, many of them were also overcrowded, dirty and unhygienic.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Dates of the visits and composition of the delegations

1. In pursuance of Article 7 of the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (hereinafter referred to as “the Convention”), two delegations of the CPT carried out visits to Greece from 13 to 18 April and 19 to 25 July 2016. Both visits were considered by the Committee “to be required in the circumstances” (cf. Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Convention).

2. The April 2016 visit was carried out by two members of the CPT, Anton Van Kalmthout (Head of delegation) and Julia Kozma. They were supported by Sebastian Rietz of the CPT’s Secretariat and assisted by Alan Mitchell, general medical practitioner at Dungavel House Immigration removal Centre, Scotland, United Kingdom (expert). Jeroen Schokkenbroek, Executive Secretary, attended the talks with the Greek authorities at the end of the visit.

The July 2016 visit was conducted by two members of the CPT, Anton Van Kalmthout (Head of delegation) and Ilvija Pūce. They were supported by Hugh Chetwynd, Head of Division, and Sebastian Rietz of the Committee’s Secretariat and assisted by Alan Mitchell (expert).

3. For a list of the places visited by the CPT’s delegations during the two visits see Appendix I.

B. Context of the visits

4. In 2015, an unprecedented number of foreign nationals arrived in Greece, most of them crossing by boat from Turkey. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), more than 850,000 refugees and migrants mainly from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq – almost half of them being women and children – reached Greek shores during that year, with a peak in October when more than 210,000 persons arrived by sea. The large majority transited through Greece and continued their journey to other European countries. Between January and March 2016, numbers remained high with more than 150,000 new arrivals on the Aegean Islands.

To stem the flow of refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants, the European Union member States and institutions agreed in 2015 to implement the so-called “hotspot” approach to managing migration,¹ aimed at swiftly identifying, registering and properly processing new arrivals in designated centres at key arrival points, both in Greece and Italy. Five “hotspots” were identified by the Greek authorities on the Aegean Islands and progressively started operating in late 2015 and early 2016.² In February 2016, the authorities of Croatia, Serbia and “the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” closed their borders thus resulting in a large number of foreign nationals being stranded in mainland Greece.

¹ See notably: European Parliament, On the frontline: the hotspot approach to managing migration, Study, 2016, at: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/556942/IPOL_STU\(2016\)556942_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2016/556942/IPOL_STU(2016)556942_EN.pdf).

² These are Moria “hotspot” on the island of Lesbos, VIAL “hotspot” on the island of Chios, Vathi “hotspot” on the island of Samos, Lepida “hotspot” on the island of Leros and Pyli “hotspot” on the island of Kos.

5. The European Union-Turkey Statement³ of 18 March 2016 was intended to ensure that all persons reaching Greece from Turkey after 20 March 2016 would be readmitted to Turkey immediately or once their asylum claims were deemed inadmissible or unfounded by the Greek authorities.⁴ In order to better manage the large influx of foreign nationals and to implement the EU-Turkey Statement, the Greek Parliament adopted Law 4375/2016, which entered into force on 3 April 2016 and introduced a considerable number of changes to the existing procedural and institutional framework for dealing with migratory flows in Greece. It also provided for the procedures applicable upon arrival in the so-called “Reception and Identification Centres” (hereafter: “RICs”; i.e. the “hotspots” or *Κέντρα Υποδοχής και Ταυτοποίησης (Κ.Υ.Τ.)*) (see paragraph 12).

6. One of the primary purposes of the CPT’s April and July 2016 visits to Greece was to examine the situation of foreign nationals in the RICs on the Aegean islands. Another objective was to look into the particular situation of foreign national children deprived of their liberty in Greece. In July 2016, the CPT also visited a number of police stations and holding facilities for irregular migrants in Athens, Thessaloniki and on the Aegean islands to assess the treatment and conditions of detention of foreign nationals held under aliens’ legislation. Further, it examined the treatment of criminal suspects held in police custody and the safeguards afforded to them.

7. At the outset, the CPT wishes to emphasise that it acknowledges the significant challenges the Greek authorities are facing in dealing with large numbers of refugees, asylum seekers and irregular migrants entering the country. It has repeatedly stressed that addressing this phenomenon requires a coordinated European approach as well as support by the European Union and its member States and cannot rely on a policy of detention. The CPT is also aware that the extremely rapid application of the agreement between the European Union and Turkey did not allow sufficient time to build the necessary capacity and infrastructure for its proper implementation. It thus notes a direct link in practice between the time it takes for the European Union and its member States to provide the pledged assistance to process new arrivals and determine their legal status on the one hand, and the time foreign nationals have to remain in the “hotspots” in conditions which are, in many respects, unacceptable and which particularly affected those who were deprived of their liberty on the other. With this in mind, the CPT considers that the decision of the Greek authorities not to authorise the publication of the preliminary observations made by its delegation at the end of its April visit was a missed opportunity for mobilising this support.

At the same time, it wishes to stress that this situation cannot absolve the Greek authorities from their international human rights obligations as regards the treatment of foreign nationals deprived of their liberty. The State must exercise its duty of care to all persons deprived of their liberty and treat them humanely and with dignity.

³ European Council, EU-Turkey Statement, 18 March 2016, at: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/03/18-eu-turkey-statement/>.

⁴ With a few exceptions, virtually all persons arriving on the Greek Aegean islands since 20 March 2016 have applied for asylum.

C. Consultations held by the delegations and cooperation encountered

8. In the course of the visits, the CPT's delegations held consultations with Ioannis Mouzalas, Alternate Minister of Migration Policy, and with Nikolaos Toskas, Alternate Minister of Citizen Protection. The delegation also met Lt. General Zacharoula Tsirigoti, Chief of Staff of the Hellenic Police Headquarters, and other senior officers of the Hellenic Police as well as senior officials from the Ministry of Migration Policy (including representatives of the First Reception Service and the Asylum Service), the Ministry of Citizen Protection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health.

The delegations also held meetings with Vassilis Karydis, Acting Ombudsman and Head of the National Preventive Mechanism, and representatives of the UNHCR Offices in Athens and on the islands visited.

In addition, in April, representatives of the EU Coordinator for the Implementation of the EU-Turkey Agreement and the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders (Frontex) participated in one of the meetings and the delegation met with representatives from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) active in areas of concern to the CPT.

A list of the national authorities and organisations met by the delegations is set out in the Appendix II to this report.

9. In the course of the April and July 2016 visits, the CPT's delegations received generally very good cooperation from both the national authorities and staff at the establishments visited. Both delegations enjoyed access to all the places they wished to visit (including those which had not been notified in advance), were provided with the information necessary for carrying out their task and were able to speak in private with persons deprived of their liberty.

That said, during a follow-up visit to Thessaloniki Special holding facility for irregular migrants in the course of the July visit, the CPT's delegation heard concurring complaints by detainees that the previous day, after the delegation had left the facility, police officers had attempted to find out what they had said to the delegation in private, notably in relation to allegations of ill-treatment. Clearly, any kind of intimidating or retaliatory action against a person before or after he has spoken to a CPT delegation would be totally incompatible with the obligations of Parties to the Convention.

The CPT recommends that the Greek authorities take all necessary measures to ensure that the principle of cooperation and the confidentiality of the Committee's interviews with persons deprived of their liberty are in future fully respected in all establishments visited.

D. Immediate observations under Article 8, paragraph 5, of the Convention

10. At the end of the second visit, on 25 July 2016, the CPT's delegation made three immediate observations under Article 8, paragraph 5, of the Convention. The Greek authorities were requested:

- to take immediate steps to fix the drainage system at Amygdaleza Special holding facility for unaccompanied children;
- to take Drapetsona Police Station out of service and to transfer the detained persons to a more suitable facility;
- to ensure that every detained person at Thessaloniki Special holding facility for irregular migrants is provided with a clean mattress and bedding, that all cells are disinfested, and that, for public health reasons, medical screening is carried out upon admission and a doctor and a nurse are present several hours each day.

These requests were confirmed in writing on 29 July 2016 and the Greek authorities were requested to provide a response by 5 September 2016.

Regrettably, the Greek authorities have not, to date, responded to any of these three immediate observations (see also paragraphs 47, 55 and 57). This lack of response raises a clear issue of cooperation under Article 3 of the Convention.

The CPT trusts that the Greek authorities have nevertheless taken action to address these immediate observations and urges them to ensure that every effort is made in future to respond in writing to any immediate observations made by CPT delegations within the time limits requested.

II. FACTS FOUND DURING THE VISITS AND ACTION PROPOSED

A. Reception and Identification Centres (so-called “hotspots”)

1. Preliminary remarks

11. In late 2015 and early 2016, the Greek authorities established on the Aegean islands a number of dedicated centres (so-called “hotspots”) for the registration and processing of foreign nationals crossing irregularly by boat from Turkey to Greece.⁵ Initially, four of the five “hotspots” were operated as open reception centres.⁶ Once fully operational, refugees, asylum seekers and other migrants were generally processed swiftly,⁷ and usually did not stay for more than a few days before they continued their journey to mainland Greece.

However, as from 20 March 2016, the Greek authorities transformed all existing “hotspots” into closed detention facilities and all new arrivals were effectively deprived of their liberty. As a consequence, several international organisations and civil society organisations partly discontinued or suspended their work at the centres.

12. On 3 April 2016, Law 4375/2016 entered into force. It provides the new legal basis for deprivation of liberty in the “hotspots” (hereinafter referred to as RICs). According to the law, new arrivals shall be deprived of their liberty within the premises of the RICs initially for three days which can be extended up to a total of 25 days during the so-called “reception and identification procedure”.⁸ This measure is applied as a general rule to all new arrivals, without any prior individual assessment, and implies a prohibition to leave the premises of the RICs.

The new law also introduces the so-called “border procedure” for asylum applications submitted at the border or in the RICs.⁹ Further, it contains a provision that allows the Ministry of the Interior and Administrative Reconstruction to transform the RICs (or part of them) by ministerial decision into special holding facilities for irregular migrants or pre-departure centres.¹⁰

⁵ With the exception of the Moria Centre, all were built from scratch with the assistance and temporary co-ordination by the Greek Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces.

⁶ Moria “hotspot” (Lesvos) started operating in October 2015; VIAL (Chios) and Lepida (Leros) “hotspots” became operational in February, Vathi “hotspot” (Samos) in March, and Pyli “hotspot” (Kos) in May 2016.

⁷ Regular delays in the registration have nevertheless been encountered at the Moria Centre, due to increased numbers of arrivals.

⁸ See Section 14 of Law 4375/2016.

⁹ The purpose of the fast-track “border procedure” is to conduct the entire admissibility phase of asylum applications inside the “hotspots”, while taking into account the existence of a “first country of asylum” or a “safe third country”. According to the new provisions, applications for asylum as well as appeals shall be examined and processed within two weeks time.

¹⁰ See Section 80 (10) of Law 4375/2016.

13. The *Moria Reception and Identification Centre* on the island of Lesbos, which is located on a hillside nearby a small village at the outskirts of the city of Mytilene, had previously been used as a pre-departure centre and started operating as a “hotspot” in October 2015. The guarded camp is surrounded by fencing topped with barbed or coiled razor wire and divided in several sections:

- Section A – previously used as a closed detention area – contained three open (but lockable) sub-sections with pre-fabricated housing units and small tents. At the time of the April 2016 visit, an unspecified number of families were accommodated there;
- Section B was guarded and separated from the rest of the camp by three gates and consisted of two closed wings with pre-fabricated containers. At the time of the April 2016 visit, 107 adults and 57 unaccompanied children were administratively deprived of their liberty in this section under the authority of the police, while in July 2016, 22 adult foreign nationals were being detained;
- The section for unaccompanied children contained two closed sub-sections with pre-fabricated housing units for unaccompanied children. At the time of the April 2016 visit, it was operating at full capacity and 156 unaccompanied children were being detained, whereas in July 2016, 106 were being held in “protective custody” under the authority of the Reception and Identification Service (previously: First Reception Service);¹¹
- The general accommodation area, which is located on a hillside and rather resembled a shantytown with its “refugee housing units”, “rubb halls”, tent-like units and its numerous small tents placed all over the space, hosted an unspecified number of foreign nationals.¹²

The centre has an official capacity of some 1,500 places. However, at the time of the April and July 2016 visits, around 3,000 foreign nationals were being held there.

The *VIAL Reception and Identification Centre* on the island of Chios, which was established at the location of an abandoned aluminium factory in a small village near the city of Chios, started operating as a “hotspot” in February 2016. The guarded centre is split into two sections (A and B), located on either side of the factory building which served for registration and administrative purposes, each surrounded by a fence topped with barbed wire. Both consisted of several lines of prefabricated housing containers with a total capacity of 1,100 places. At the time of the visits in April and July 2016, around 1,000 foreign nationals were being held at the centre.

The *Vathi Reception and Identification Centre* on the island of Samos had been newly built on a hillside close to the city of Samos and started operating as a “hotspot” in March 2016. It consists of a lower and an upper section with prefabricated housing containers and some 200 small tents. At the time of the July 2016 visit, the centre accommodated some 1,100 foreign nationals for a total capacity of some 850 places.

¹¹ This section further contained several prefabricated containers which accommodated the registration area, administration and a medical service.

¹² Another section – still partially under construction during the April visit – was accommodating officials deployed from the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and the Greek Asylum Service.

2. Findings of the April 2016 visit

a. Ill-treatment

14. The majority of foreign nationals interviewed by the delegation stated that they had been treated correctly by police officers.

That said, in both the Moria and the VIAL Centre, the delegation received some isolated allegations from foreign nationals of ill-treatment by police officers consisting of slaps to the face as well as punches and kicks to the body that were supported by medical and other evidence.

It is of particular concern that some of these allegations were made by unaccompanied children held in one of the sub-sections of the dedicated compound at the Moria Centre, who claimed that they had been beaten by some five police officers after having been involved in a fight with another group of children, five days before the CPT's visit in April. Allegedly, they had been taken out of the section and were forced to the ground and repeatedly slapped, punched and kicked to the back, limbs and other parts of their body, after they had been brought under control. At the time of the visit, two of them bore injuries that were consistent with the allegations made, such as various bruises and abrasions on their back, arms and shoulders. Regrettably, neither the injuries nor any statements had been recorded in the incident report drawn up by the head of the First Reception Service which was later sent to the police, despite the fact that the persons concerned had apparently been seen by a doctor, although without the assistance of an interpreter, on the same day. **The CPT would like to be informed about the outcome of the investigation.**

Moreover, the delegation heard a number of complaints from foreign nationals at the VIAL Centre that they had been subjected to rude and other disrespectful behaviour by police officers.

In this context, reference is made to the CPT's recommendations made in paragraph 53.

15. Tensions (including inter-cultural tensions) among detainees in both RICs visited in April 2016 were high. This was also partly due to lack of information and uncertainty about their situation (see paragraph 23). It was reported to the delegation that, in the weeks prior to the visit, there were repeated episodes of unrests or riots in the centres as well as fights and other instances of inter-detainee violence. A number of detained foreign nationals interviewed complained about feeling unsafe and having concerns for their and their families' safety, notably at the VIAL Centre.

The feeling of insecurity seemed to be aggravated by the lack of a police presence within the Moria and VIAL Centres, illustrated most vividly by two major incidents in April. During the nights of 30 March to 1 April 2016, clashes broke out between different groups inside the VIAL Centre, during which reportedly three persons were left with stab injuries and parts of the centre were destroyed. Police officers and other staff working at the centre were forced to evacuate the camp to guarantee their own security. This prompted some 1,000 foreign nationals to walk out of the centre the next day, the majority of whom installed itself in an open camp.

Similarly, during the evening of 26 April 2016, after unrest broke out at the Moria Centre and detainees set fire and threw stones and other projectiles at (riot) police officers who deployed tear gas in response, two groups of children started fighting and attacked each other with makeshift weapons, leading to serious injuries.¹³ Police officers reportedly did not intervene to stop the fight and protect the children.

b. Conditions of detention

16. As regards material conditions, the CPT notes that the RICs were initially intended, in their capacity as “hotspots”, to accommodate new arrivals for no longer than two or three days. However, with the transformation into closed centres as from 20 March 2016 and delays in the processing of increasing numbers of asylum applications submitted and in the assistance provided by European Union member States, the majority of foreign nationals in both centres visited had already been held there for several weeks, at the time of the April visit, under deteriorating conditions.¹⁴

At the *Moria Centre*, the material conditions observed were particularly poor and unsuitable for accommodating persons for days let alone weeks, especially vulnerable persons such as pregnant women or families with small children or even new-born babies.¹⁵ With around 3,000 persons deprived of their liberty, the facility was operating at about 200% of its official capacity with more persons arriving on a daily basis. Overcrowding in the centre was so severe that most persons had to stay either in squalid and cramped conditions in one of the pre-fabricated housing units or in tents (many persons had to purchase their own tents). For instance, the CPT’s delegation met a group of 43 foreign nationals, including families with small children and elderly persons crowded in a single 46m² room of a housing container in Section A and up to seven detainees who had to share small two-person tents in the main accommodation area.

Adult and unaccompanied juvenile foreign nationals who were detained in Section B – a fenced detention compound separated from the general camp population of the centre – suffered from particularly poor material conditions. Section B consisted of two wings with pre-fabricated housing units. During the April visit, not all of the 107 adults had a mattress and none had been given a blanket. Many sanitary annexes of the housing units were either damaged or in an extremely dilapidated and unhygienic state; several had been flooded with sewage. They were neither cleaned nor regularly maintained.¹⁶ No hygienic products or cleaning material had been provided by the authorities. Further, waste had not been collected and was piling up in the courtyard. Such conditions are unacceptable and, in the CPT’s view, could be considered as inhuman and degrading.¹⁷

¹³ Injuries reportedly included numerous head wounds, fractures of the upper and lower limbs, a broken nose and numerous contusions.

¹⁴ Most foreign nationals were still accommodated at the centres at the time of the July visit (see section 3).

¹⁵ While the Greek authorities had transferred some 700 to 800 persons from the Moria Centre to an open camp shortly before the April visit, many more vulnerable persons were still at the centre at the time of the visit.

¹⁶ Similarly, the CPT’s delegation learned that the communal sanitary facilities in the main accommodation area had been constantly filthy and flooded in the days and weeks before the visit. Only shortly before, they had been repaired and cleaned in preparation of the forthcoming visit of the Pope.

¹⁷ See European Court of Human Rights judgment of *M.S.S. v Belgium and Greece* (Application no. 30696/09) of 21 January 2011.

The delegation also received many complaints about the poor quality of drinking water as well as the insufficient quantity and quality of the food provided; the specific provision for small children was particularly inadequate. Many foreign nationals who were held in the main accommodation area had to stand three times a day for up to two hours in a queue with no protection from the sun waiting for the food to be distributed. On at least one occasion, food had gone off due to the heat and a number of detainees complained that they were hungry or felt unwell.

17. According to the new legislation, persons belonging to vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied children, seriously ill or disabled persons, pregnant women, single parents with children, torture victims or ship-wreck survivors, must be provided with special care and protection and be referred to the competent social support or protection institutions.¹⁸ However, at the time of the April visit, a high number of vulnerable persons were being held in both establishments, including unaccompanied or separated children (see paragraphs 13 and 38), women with babies who had recently given birth and who were breast-feeding, families or single mothers with small children, people with disabilities or serious health problems as well as ship-wreck survivors. It is a matter of concern that in both centres hardly any arrangements had been made to cater for their specific needs – many of them were traumatised and distressed.

c. Health-care services

18. At the time of the April visit, the CPT's delegation observed an absence of the Greek State in providing health-care services and consequently an over-reliance on NGOs for the delivery of health-care services, which were insufficient for the needs of the detainee population in both centres visited, and a complete lack of coordination in the provision of such services, with poor communication and information sharing between the independently working health-care providers. No individual health-care records were kept,¹⁹ with the consequence that it was impossible to verify whether a request for medical assistance had been acted upon. The provision of health care was only reactive, due to the lack of staffing and the lack of specialised health-care staff, including dentists. Further, at the VIAL Centre, the amount of medication available was entirely insufficient, in particular for the health-care needs of children, and basic medical equipment was missing.

19. A high number of detainees in both centres visited complained about difficulties as regards access to a doctor and that, at the VIAL Centre and in Section B of the Moria Centre, requests for medical care were filtered by police officers who decided whether or not to call a doctor. Such a state of affairs is unacceptable. The complete absence of interpretation services for health-care providers at the VIAL Centre presented another significant problem,²⁰ as well as the lack of translation services at the local hospitals on Lesbos and Chios, with the result that, on various occasions, patients had been sent back from the hospitals without having been seen, let alone receiving any diagnosis or treatment. Further, there was a real difficulty in arranging transportation to the local hospitals for non-emergency patients.²¹

¹⁸ See Section 9 and 14 (2) and (8) of Law 4375/2016.

¹⁹ In addition, recording of detainees was not standardised, with one NGO recording the individual's name as phonetically heard instead of using the identification number issued by the police.

²⁰ At the Moria Centre, Médecins du Monde had four interpreters in their team and two volunteer interpreters provided assistance.

²¹ For instance, there was only one ambulance available for the whole island of Chios.

In Section B of the Moria Centre, the CPT's visiting delegation met two foreign nationals who were clearly unwell, both of whom had requested access to a doctor for several days without success. It felt compelled to intervene to ensure that these patients, one of whom was gravely ill,²² were transferred to hospital for further assessment and treatment as a matter of urgency. Other detainees in the same section stated that they suffered from various health problems, such as heart diseases, asthma, epileptic seizures and dental problems, and that they did not have swift access to a doctor and no access to the medication and treatment that they required.

20. Another issue was the lack of provision of psycho-social and mental health-care services at both centres; given the profile of their population and the traumatic experiences that many of them have lived through, it is essential to put in place self-harm and suicide prevention measures.²³ More generally, the lack of information and the prevailing uncertainty and anxiety about the future compounded their stress.

21. At the VIAL Centre, the CPT's delegation learned of an outbreak of chickenpox.²⁴ However, no public health measures had been taken to limit the spread of the infection and to determine which groups of detainees and staff should benefit from vaccination or appropriate medication. Further, the shortage of drinking water at the VIAL Centre coupled with the lack of an opportunity to wash blankets and clothing presented a significant public health risk. The situation was even more dramatic at Section B of the Moria Centre, with no access to drinking water for the adults detained and only very limited access for the unaccompanied children held there. The delegation urged the Greek authorities to address these serious public health risks.

d. Legal safeguards

22. The CPT notes that, at the time of the April visit, a number of foreign nationals had been held in the centres beyond the 25-day-limit provided for in Greek law (see paragraph 12); a fact acknowledged by high-ranking officials in both centres. Further, none of the detainees interviewed (with the exception of those unaccompanied children who were held at the Moria Centre under the authority of the First Reception Service) had been provided with an official administrative document authorising their initial or prolonged deprivation of liberty. Several detainees also claimed that they had actually arrived at the Moria or at the VIAL Centre on 18 or 19 March, before the European Union-Turkey Statement was applied, but that they were only registered by the authorities after 20 March 2016. This situation raises serious questions about the legality of their continued detention.

²² The detainee had been bitten by a dog (allegedly within the Moria Centre) some 15 days prior to the visit and had not been followed up. The wound on his leg was infected; he was septic with a high temperature and frequent vomiting.

²³ Indeed, in June 2016, several suicide attempts were reported at the VIAL Centre.

²⁴ Chickenpox is a highly contagious disease and vulnerable groups such as pregnant women and those with chronic illness are particularly at risk of potential life-threatening complications.

23. According to the new law, the decision to prolong the initial deprivation of liberty within one of the RICs beyond three days must be fully reasoned and handed over in writing to the persons concerned, who, in principle, have the right to challenge their deprivation of liberty by filing an objection before the competent administrative court of first instance.²⁵ That said, at the time of the April visit, this right remained illusory in practice at both centres and the vast majority of foreign nationals were, in effect, not able to challenge their deprivation of liberty.

At the time of the April visit, detained persons were generally not provided with any (reliable) information about their rights and their situation by the Greek authorities (e.g. information leaflets in various languages explaining the reasons for their deprivation of liberty, the asylum procedure and their rights, including the right to challenge their deprivation of liberty and the right to lodge complaints). Further, at the time of the April visit, neither Internal Regulations nor Standard Operating Procedures for the RICs had been adopted.²⁶

In addition, there was a major gap in terms of legal protection; legal aid was generally unavailable in practice and access to a lawyer proved difficult.

There was also a lack of available interpreters at both centres visited which inevitably led to significant problems in communication between the detained foreign nationals and the police or other staff.

24. Moreover, the adults deprived of their liberty in the closed Section B of the Moria Centre – mostly Pakistanis – were *de facto* held in pre-removal detention, although the section was not officially operating as a pre-removal centre.²⁷ Some of these detainees claimed that they had not been able to communicate to the police their wish to apply for asylum. Clearly, all asylum applications should be duly registered by the Greek authorities.

25. The CPT's delegation also found evidence that several foreign nationals who had been held at the VIAL Centre shortly before the April visit and had recently been readmitted to Turkey had been taken from the centre without having had the opportunity to take their personal belongings (including their mobile phones). **The CPT recommends that the Greek authorities ensure that procedures be put in place to ensure that persons readmitted to Turkey can take all their personal belongings with them.**

26. At the end of the April visit, the CPT's delegation informed the Greek authorities of the various deficiencies found and urged them to take immediate steps to remedy the situation in the RICs. This was subsequently confirmed in writing to the authorities in the form of preliminary observations.

²⁵ See Section 14 of Law 4375/2016.

²⁶ The centres were still operating under the regulations previously issued for the so-called "First Reception Centres". See Law 3907/2011 and Ministerial Decision No. 7001/2/1454-h of 26 January 2012.

²⁷ According to the police commander in charge, foreign nationals who did not want to apply for asylum were detained there for the purpose of return or readmission. Further, several persons claimed that they had been brought to Section B of the Moria Centre after they had been arrested by the police on the island.

3. Situation at the time of the July 2016 visit

27. Three months on, in July 2016, the situation had changed in that the three RICs visited (the Moria Centre, the VIAL Centre and the Vathi Centre) were clearly operating as semi-open camps. Most persons were no longer deprived of their liberty, as they were allowed to temporarily leave the premises of the RICs during the day;²⁸ however, their freedom of movement was restricted to the respective island. While foreign nationals could still be deprived of their liberty in the RICs for an initial period of up to 25 days, there were generally no checks on them leaving the centres.

28. That said, at the time of the July visit, 22 foreign nationals held in one of the two wings in Section B of the Moria Centre (Lesvos) were deprived of their liberty.²⁹ Much of the section had been destroyed by fire during a protest and the conditions of detention – while better than at the time of the April visit, due to the low number of detainees – were nevertheless not appropriate for stays in excess of a few days. Further, access to health-care services and legal safeguards proved difficult. According to the police commander in charge of the centre, foreign nationals were either detained for public order reasons or because they had requested to be readmitted to Turkey or to be returned to their country of origin. That said, none of them had received a detention order. Persons deprived of their liberty must clearly be informed in writing about the reasons/legal basis for their detention and the avenues for lodging an appeal.

The CPT recommends that the Greek authorities clarify the status of the foreign nationals detained at Section B of the Moria Centre by providing them with individual detention orders. Further, if it is their intention to continue to use the compound as a place of (*de facto*) detention, the Greek authorities should radically improve the conditions of detention at the section.

29. The Committee notes that, paradoxically, all persons who had accepted to be voluntarily readmitted or returned were systematically deprived of their liberty, either in Section B of the Moria Centre or in police stations on the other two islands visited before their readmission to Turkey or their transfer to a pre-removal centre on the mainland. There can be no justification for the prolonged detention of persons who have volunteered to return. **The CPT would like to receive the comments of the Greek authorities on this issue.**

30. The CPT acknowledges the efforts undertaken by the Greek authorities to improve the situation in the RICs since its visit in April. At the Moria Centre, the management was much better organised and a weekly coordination meeting was held, chaired by UNHCR, with the participation of the police and all relevant services and organisations involved. An information campaign to inform foreign nationals about their rights and the procedure applicable to them had also been launched at the centre and vulnerable groups were better protected. By contrast, the management of the Vathi Centre was shared between the Hellenic Police (upper part) and the Reception and Identification Service (lower part) and lacked coordination and control.

²⁸ Persons who were able to find accommodation outside of the RICs were required to report back three times a week. Everybody else was required to return to the RICs at night.

²⁹ As regards unaccompanied and separated children held in the RICs, see paragraphs 37-44.

Indeed, despite a few noticeable improvements, many of the problems raised with the Greek authorities at the end of the April 2016 visit and highlighted above persisted in some or all of the centres visited in July. These included notably: increasing anxiety and frustration of foreign nationals due to uncertainty about the future,³⁰ lengthy asylum procedures and long waiting times;³¹ the perception of insecurity; inadequate material conditions and severe overcrowding;³² lack of organised activities; the vulnerability of many foreign nationals with special needs; insufficient provision and lack of coordination of health-care services and difficulties in accessing them; the lack of psycho-social and mental health-care services; insufficient provision of information and legal aid as well as difficulties in accessing a lawyer; and the lack of interpretation services. The situation in the RICs therefore remained highly explosive, as unfortunately recent events have shown, most notably at the Moria Centre where after violent protests and fights on 19 September 2016, a large part of the camp was destroyed by fire.³³

The Committee therefore takes note with interest of the Greek authorities' announcement to transfer a number of foreign nationals from the Aegean islands to "guarded" reception centres on the Greek mainland in order to decongest the RICs and to ease reception conditions.

The CPT encourages the Greek authorities to ensure that the concerns highlighted by it are urgently addressed.

Further, it would like to receive the comments of the Greek authorities on whether foreign nationals transferred to "guarded" reception centres on the Greek mainland are being deprived of their liberty.

³⁰ The Greek authorities informed the CPT that serious trouble makers and those foreign nationals who had been involved in riots had been arrested; they were all treated as criminal offenders and had been transferred to a pre-removal centre on the mainland.

³¹ Idleness, boredom and feelings of uselessness dominated the daily life in the camps.

³² While, between March and July 2016, some 5,700 foreign nationals (mainly from Syria) had been transferred from the Aegean islands to the Greek mainland – mainly because their asylum claims had been accepted or they had been referred to the normal asylum procedure (e.g. for vulnerable groups) – between 5,500 and 6,000 persons were accommodated in the centres at the time of the July visit. Since then, the number of new arrivals has again increased significantly. On 27 September 2016, a total of 13,863 foreign nationals were present on the Aegean islands, exceeding by far the reception capacity of only 7,450 places.

³³ The European Commission, in its third progress report on the implementation of the European Union-Turkey Statement of 28 September 2016, recognises that "the Greek hotspots are increasingly overcrowded, creating difficult and sometimes dangerous conditions".

B. Foreign national children deprived of their liberty

1. Preliminary remarks

31. During its previous visits to Greece, the CPT has repeatedly highlighted the issue of foreign national children, and particularly unaccompanied or separated children (hereafter “UASC”), deprived of their liberty.³⁴ The Committee has made it clear that every effort should be made to avoid resorting to the deprivation of liberty of an irregular migrant who is a minor. Following the principle of the “best interests of the child”, as formulated in Article 3 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, detention of children, including UASC, is rarely justified and, in the Committee’s view, can certainly not be motivated solely by the absence of residence status.

When, exceptionally, a child is detained as a measure of last resort, the deprivation of liberty should be for the shortest possible period of time; all efforts should be made to allow the immediate release of UASC from a detention facility and their placement in more appropriate care. Further, owing to the vulnerable nature of a child, additional safeguards should apply whenever a child is detained.³⁵ The CPT recalls that the European Court of Human Rights has on several occasions held that the administrative detention of unaccompanied children in an adult detention centre had amounted to inhuman treatment.³⁶

32. In 2016, the structural problem of a shortage of suitable accommodation for UASC in dedicated open shelters has become acute. With more than 3,000 unaccompanied children registered in Greece in the first six months of 2016, the competent authorities were no longer able to swiftly refer all UASC to reception centres and effectively provide them with the care and protection they require. While there were reportedly some 500 shelter spaces at the time of the April visit and some 700 places at the time of the July visit, all these shelters were operating at full capacity. Indeed, this number was grossly insufficient to accommodate all UASC and around 1,400 requests for placement were pending in July.³⁷ As a consequence, many of these children were, and continue to be, routinely and often for lengthy periods, held at police stations, in special holding facilities or, since March, in Reception and Identification Centres on the Aegean islands, either under administrative detention (for UASC of nationalities that have few chances to obtain international protection in Greece) or under so-called “protective custody” upon order of the competent public prosecutor (for all other UASC).³⁸

³⁴ See the report on the CPT’s 2015 visit, CPT/Inf (2016) 4, paragraphs 96-108; the report on the CPT’s 2013 visit, CPT/Inf (2014) 26, paragraphs 78-81; and the report on the CPT’s 2011 visit, CPT/Inf (2012) 1, paragraphs 22-26.

³⁵ As soon as possible after the presence of a child becomes known to the authorities, a professional qualified person should conduct an initial interview, in a language the child understands. An assessment should be made of the child’s particular vulnerabilities, including from the standpoints of age, health, psycho-social factors and other protection needs, including those deriving from violence, trafficking or trauma. UASC deprived of their liberty should be provided with prompt and free access to legal aid and other appropriate assistance, including the assignment of a guardian or legal representative. Review mechanisms should also be introduced to monitor the on-going quality of the guardianship. See 19th General Report on the CPT’s Activities, CPT/Inf/C (2002) 1 [Rev. 2015], paragraphs 97-98.

³⁶ See European Court of Human Rights, *Mubilanzila Mayeka and Kaniki Mitunga v. Belgium*, Judgment of 12 October 2006; *Rahimi v. Greece*, Judgment of 5 April 2011; *Housein v. Greece*, Judgment of 24 October 2013.

³⁷ As of 8 September 2016, there were 800 places in shelters and around 1,500 UAMs were on the waiting list.

³⁸ As of 8 September 2016, 323 UASC were reportedly held in RICs, special holding facilities or police stations.

33. Greek legislation provides that, while UASC shall not, as a rule, be detained, they may, for 25 days, be deprived of their liberty – in exceptional cases and as a measure of last resort – until a place in a dedicated open shelter becomes available. This period can be prolonged for another 20 days, if they cannot be transferred due to exceptional circumstances (such as the significant increase in arrivals). UASC may thus be deprived of their liberty in Greece for up to 45 days.³⁹

The Greek authorities have, in the past, repeatedly argued that they had no other options but to place UASC – for their own protection – in “protective custody” under the authority of the Hellenic Police, due to the lack of alternatives to detention. This leads however to the incongruous situation that those who are most in need of care and protection are the ones who are routinely deprived of their liberty and remain in detention for lengthy periods. Further, legal safeguards are ineffective in practice, due to gaps in the current system of guardianship which also applies to UASC.⁴⁰

34. The CPT acknowledges the efforts being undertaken by the Greek authorities in the context of the National strategy for the treatment of unaccompanied foreign national children,⁴¹ notably to address the lack of available places for UASC in dedicated shelters. Shortly before the July visit, the Greek Social Solidarity Minister, Theano Fotiou, announced that 600 places for unaccompanied children would be created throughout Greece by September, together with the planned creation of “child protection zones” within existing reception centres. The CPT welcomes these planned steps as well as the stated commitment by the Greek Minister for Migration Policy, Ioannis Mouzalas, expressed in the meetings at the end of both visits to deal with the issue of unaccompanied children as a top priority and to engage significant efforts to increase shelter capacities so as to reduce the recourse to deprivation of liberty.

The CPT recommends that the Greek authorities pursue their efforts to increase swiftly and significantly the number of dedicated open (or semi-open) shelter facilities for UASC (e.g. social welfare/educative institutions for juveniles). In this respect, the Committee would like to receive updated information on the number of UASC that are currently being held in “protective custody” in Greece (in either police stations, immigration detention facilities or RICs) and on the Greek authorities’ plans to create additional capacity in open shelter facilities for UASC as well as the expected timeline.

In the meantime, the creation of short-term transit shelter spaces as alternatives to detention should be prioritised in cooperation with specialised international organisations as well as international and national NGOs.

³⁹ See Section 46 (10) b of Law 4375/2016. Prior to the adoption of the new legislation in April, Greek law did not stipulate any explicit time-limit for how long UASC could be held in protective custody.

⁴⁰ The public prosecutor for children or the competent prosecutor of the local administrative court of first instance acts as a provisional guardian and is required to appoint a permanent one. However, in practice, the prosecutors do not have the capacity to effectively deal with all UASC who are referred to them.

⁴¹ This strategy aims at reviewing the institutional and legislative framework in this field, reforming the system of guardianship, and creating additional facilities to accommodate unaccompanied children; the relevant draft legislation is currently being prepared. Further, a number of international organisations and some NGOs have also stepped in by offering open transit accommodation and by creating a guardianship network for UASC.

35. As a matter of principle, the CPT wishes to stress that any form of deprivation of liberty may have a detrimental effect on the physical and/or mental well-being of UASC, given their particular vulnerability. In this regard, the Committee observes an increasing trend at the European and international level to promote measures to stop the use of immigration detention of children. Particular reference should be made to the United Nations Committee for the Rights of the Child, which considers that unaccompanied children should not, as a general rule, be detained.⁴² It has consequently called on States to “expeditiously and completely cease the detention of children on the basis of their immigration status”.⁴³ Other Council of Europe bodies, such as the Parliamentary Assembly⁴⁴ or the Commissioner for Human Rights⁴⁵, have also made this call. The CPT fully endorses this approach and considers it high time for the Greek authorities to fundamentally review their approach with regard to "protective custody" of UASC.

The CPT recommends that the Greek authorities take the necessary measures to end immigration detention of UASC. Law 4375/2016 should be amended accordingly. Further, children should always be provided with the special care and protection they require in line with the principle of best interests of the child.

36. In the course of both visits in April and July 2016, the CPT’s delegations visited several facilities where foreign national children were deprived of their liberty; many amongst them were unaccompanied or separated.

2. Unaccompanied and separated children held in RICs

37. At the time of the April visit, while a high number of children and other persons belonging to vulnerable groups were deprived of their liberty in the two RICs visited on the islands of Lesbos and Chios (see paragraph 17), the situation of UASC in both centres was of particular concern. That said, the situation had changed at the time of the July visit, given that either the regime had improved (at the Moria Centre) or UASC were being held in semi-open centres (both the VIAL and Vathi Centres).

38. At the *Moria Centre* on Lesbos, 156 UASC were being detained in the dedicated closed section under the authority of the First Reception Service at the time of the April visit; most were from Pakistan and Syria. Amongst them were four young girls and a seven-year-old boy. An additional 57 UASC, mainly Pakistanis, were being detained in one part of closed Section B under the authority of the police, until they could be processed by the First Reception Service. Both groups were either held administratively or in "protective custody" pending their safe transfer to an open shelter. While children were no longer being detained in Section B at the time of the July visit, 106 UASC were being held under the authority of the Reception and Identification Service.

⁴² Committee on the Rights of the Child, General Comment no. 6 (2005) on the Treatment of unaccompanied and separated children outside their country of origin, CRC/GC/2005/6, 1 September 2005, paragraph 61.

⁴³ Committee on the Rights of the Child, Report of the 2012 Day of General Discussion on the Rights of all Children in the Context of International Migration, February 2013, paragraph 78.

⁴⁴ Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Resolution 1707 (2010) on detention of asylum seekers and irregular migrants in Europe, 28 January 2010, paragraph 9.1.9, and Resolution 2020 (2014) on the alternatives to immigration detention of children, 3 October 2014, paragraph 3.

⁴⁵ Commissioner for Human Rights, Positions on the rights of minor migrants in an irregular situation, CommDH/PositionPaper(2010)6, 25 June 2010.

At the *VIAL Centre* on Chios, some 30 UASC were deprived of their liberty at the time of the April visit. Officials were not in a position to provide the exact number of UASC detained at the centre, due to the fact that they were mixed among the general detainee population and not provided with any specific arrangements. At the time of the July visit, the CPT was informed that 34 foreign nationals had been identified as unaccompanied minors.

At the *Vathi Centre* on Samos, 22 UASC were present at the time of the July visit.

39. As regards the issue of ill-treatment by police officers against UASC at the Moria Centre (see also paragraph 14), the CPT received allegations, according to which the children involved in the fights that took place on 26 April 2016 (see paragraph 15) were reportedly brought to Section B the next morning after having returned from the local hospital and were beaten by police officers. Following the incident, the Union of Lesbos' Doctors issued a statement denouncing police violence and Greek Members of Parliament have requested a formal investigation into the incident. Further, the NGO Médecins du Monde publicly reported about another incident that occurred on 24 June 2016. Following an altercation between groups of children, police officers reportedly intervened physically and 12 of them were subsequently brought to Mytilene Police Station; they later alleged that, during the night, they were subjected to physical ill-treatment by police officers at the police station.⁴⁶ **The CPT trusts that investigations have been carried out into both of these incidents and would like to be informed of their outcome.**

40. At the time of the April visit, UASC detained at the *VIAL Centre* were neither separated from the general camp population nor were they provided with any specific support or care. This lack of specific arrangements raised serious concerns as regards their protection.

The CPT has repeatedly stressed, that, in order to limit the risk of exploitation and abuse, special arrangements should be made for living quarters that are suitable for children, for example, by separating them from unrelated adults. The Committee was informed that a separate "safe space" was being established for them, which was however not yet operational at the time of the July visit.

The situation encountered at the *Vathi Centre* in July also raised questions in terms of child protection. While UASC were grouped together in several containers in the lower part of the centre, there was no designated section or separate "safe space" for the children. On account of the open nature of the centre, both UASC and local or international volunteers were free to go inside and leave the camp at day-time without any checks of possible unregistered persons; a number of them were working with UASC.

UASC at Moria Centre are placed in a locked area for reasons of "protective custody". However, the minors are not provided with proper support in terms of security, information on asylum and family reunification, psychological care and daily activities. Unfortunately, the failure of care for UASC was brought to the fore on 25 September 2016, when the Hellenic Police publicly reported that four juveniles had been arrested for allegedly collectively raping a 16-year-old boy at the Moria Centre. Urgent action is required to ensure that such incidents are not repeated.

⁴⁶ Médecins du Monde, Reported incident of police violence towards unaccompanied minors at Moria Reception Centre in Lesbos, 28 June 2016.

The CPT recommends that the Greek authorities take immediate child protective steps in all the RICs, so as to ensure that all UASC held in these centres are effectively protected. In addition, UASC in protective custody must be provided with proper care and support by qualified professionals, including as regards the processing of their individual cases.

41. While in principle, conditions of detention should be governed by the best interests of the child, UASC were being detained in a closed facility guarded by the police and with numerous security measures such as locked gates and fencing topped with razor wire. This created a highly oppressive and prison-like atmosphere.

At the time of the April visit, only the very basic needs of UASC were being covered at the Moria and the VIAL Centre. Although some efforts were being made at the compound for unaccompanied children at Section A of the Moria Centre to provide a programme of organised activities (e.g. language sessions), this was not fully implemented at the time of the April visit, due to the high number of UASC being held there. In addition, children had access to television and games, and NGOs provided assistance to juveniles. The CPT noted that, at the time of the July visit, the regime provided was more varied and several organised activities were being proposed, including some external activities outside of the centre. At the VIAL Centre no activities were offered to UASC detained at the time of the April visit whereas in July they were free to move about as they wanted and had access to a newly built football pitch below the camp.

The situation of UASC temporarily detained by the police in Section B of the Moria Centre at the time of the April visit was of particular concern. As described above, conditions of detention were particularly poor in Section B of the Moria Centre (see paragraph 16). These conditions, combined with the absence of any regime activities, the lack of access to health-care services and particularly psycho-social support (see paragraph 19-20),⁴⁷ and the lack of information, legal aid and contact to the outside world (see paragraph 23), were especially damaging to the physical and psychological well-being of children. The Committee notes that UASC were no longer being detained in Section B at the time of the July visit; however, they were still detained in protective custody in a dedicated section of the RIC.

42. More generally, the highly volatile security situation that is characterised by repeated unrests or riots as well as fights and other instances of violence between groups in the camps (see paragraph 15) and the extremely poor conditions of detention (see paragraph 16) in all RICs, and notably at the Moria Centre, make these places particularly unsuitable for UASC.

On 4 May 2016, the competent public prosecutor of Mytilene on Lesbos ordered the release of more than 70 UASC from the Moria Centre and their transfer to a temporary shelter located on the island and managed by NGOs. It is particularly noteworthy that the prosecutor concluded that the Moria Centre was “unsuitable” for holding UASC who cannot effectively protect themselves and who require special care.

⁴⁷ Several children stated that they were suffering from psychological problems.

On 4 September 2016, following a fight between groups of children that left several of them injured, including with severe knife wounds, a group of some 20 UASC were immediately relocated to a newly available shelter on the island for their protection. More recently, following protests, fights and a large-scale fire which destroyed large parts of the camp on 19 September 2016, the Greek authorities temporarily transferred the remaining 96 UASC from the Moria Centre to an open transit camp on the island, before returning them back to the Moria Centre only a few days later.

The CPT recommends that the Greek authorities no longer detain UASC in the RICs in line with the principle of the best interests of the child both in terms of special care and protection as well as conditions and immediately transfer them to more suitable shelter facilities.

43. As regards length of detention, a number of UASC interviewed during the April visit had been detained at the Moria centre for more than 40 days, in excess of the statutory timeframe of 25 days (extendable to 45 days only in exceptional circumstances; see paragraph 33), a fact that had openly been acknowledged by the police commander of the centre. After the April visit, the CPT has received information that UASC were regularly held for longer than 45 days.⁴⁸ **The Greek authorities must ensure that UASC are never detained beyond the time-limit provided by the law.** Further, it recalls the recommendation made in paragraph 35 above.

44. Another issue were the unsuitable and unreliable age assessment procedures, which were not carried out in a proper and systematic way in the centres visited, at the time of the April visit. No age assessment was carried out at the VIAL Center. At the Moria Centre, the NGO “Médecins du Monde” which was charged with this task simply verified the disputed age of a self-proclaimed minor by a mere visual assessment of his/her maturity.⁴⁹ Several boys declared that no x-ray or clinical examination was performed. As a result of these cursory age assessments, several UASC from Pakistan had been declared adults and had been transferred to the part of closed Section B at the Moria Centre where adults were detained.

It is of particular concern that there is apparently no effective means of appealing against the outcome of the assessment. One child interviewed in Section B at the Moria Centre in April 2016 was able to provide a copy of his birth certificate which clearly proved that he was only 16 years old. Despite this document in his possession, he remained detained together with adults in Section B.

The CPT recommends that the Greek authorities ensure that the necessary procedures are put in place to allow that proper age assessments are carried out in all the RICs and that the persons concerned can effectively appeal the outcome of their age assessments; if necessary, the relevant legislation should be amended.

⁴⁸ According to the Ombudsman’s Office, UASC are regularly held in “protective custody” in Greece for longer periods in excess of the 45-day-limit. Similarly, Human Rights Watch reported that the children interviewed by the organisation during research conducted in Greece in June/July had been deprived of their liberty for an average of 40 days, some having been detained for three months or more. See Human Rights Watch, “Why are you keeping me here?”, September 2016, pp. 12-13.

⁴⁹ The x-ray examination of the wrist at a hospital which was usually foreseen in the process was never carried out.

3. Children in immigration detention

45. At *Amygdaleza Special holding facility for unaccompanied children*, 14 UASC were being detained (most of them administratively) at the time of the July visit.⁵⁰ According to the duty officer, UASC usually remained for some 25 days at the facility, but due to the lack of available shelter places this period might also be significantly longer (previously, in May, UASC were held for two to three months at the facility). While one child had been held for 36 days at the establishment, several reported that they had been previously detained for several weeks at various establishments under the authority of the police (see paragraph 43).

At *Petrou Ralli Special holding facility for irregular migrants*, 31 UASC were being detained (most of them administratively) in one of the wings on the third floor. Most had been held there for seven days and were previously detained for five days at Leros Police Station.

46. There had been no positive developments in the living conditions at either of these two establishments, since the CPT's 2013⁵¹ and 2015⁵² visits. Amygdaleza holding facility remains a secured, barred detention centre with no proper outdoor exercise yard. The material conditions within the wing on the third floor of Petrou Ralli holding facility were still extremely poor, with limited access to natural light and unhygienic sanitation. Many children interviewed claimed that, usually, their cell doors were locked and that they were only able to enjoy some 30 minutes of outdoor exercise per day, which is totally insufficient. Further, the boys were not permitted to use their mobile phones and some had not been able to contact their families.

Children in both facilities were not provided with bed linen or sufficient personal hygiene products; they could neither wash their clothes nor did they have access to their personal belongings. At both establishments, neither organised activities nor adequate support were provided to the children, with the exception of occasional visits by an NGO and the Red Cross at Amygdaleza holding facility. Neither of the two holding facilities had specially trained staff and the police officers in charge of guarding them appeared to have adopted an indifferent attitude to the specific needs of the UASC in their care.

47. As an illustration, the floor in the shower and toilet area of the Amygdaleza holding facility was repeatedly flooded with effluent due to a broken drain; a situation that had existed for over a month. Many juveniles were bare-footed and had to walk through the effluent, given that they were not provided with any footwear. However, the CPT's delegation discovered that plenty of footwear existed in the storage room of the facility.

At the end of the visit, the delegation invoked Article 8, paragraph 5, of the Convention and made an immediate observation, requesting the Greek authorities to immediately fix the drainage system. As stated above, no response has been received from the Greek authorities regarding the implementation of this immediate observation.

The CPT recommends that immediate steps be taken to fix the drainage system at Amygdaleza Special holding facility for unaccompanied children.

⁵⁰ At the time of the April 2015 visit, this establishment held 39 UASC and the average length of stay was two months. See CPT/Inf (2016) 4, paragraphs 106 and 108.

⁵¹ See CPT/Inf (2014) 26, paragraphs 78 and 77, and 78-80.

⁵² See CPT/Inf (2016) 4, paragraphs 106-108.

48. In sum, the findings from the July visit reinforce the Committee's most recent conclusion that Amygdaleza Special holding facility for unaccompanied children with its warehouse environment is totally unsuitable to meet the needs of UASC. Further, Petrou Ralli Special holding facility for irregular migrants, which operates like a large police detention facility, is even less well equipped to look after them. Placing UASC, many of whom have undergone traumatic journeys and experiences, in these detention centres for several weeks or months is difficult to comprehend.

The CPT recommends that the Greek authorities immediately stop using Petrou Ralli Special holding facility for irregular migrants for holding UASC. It also reiterates that Amygdaleza Special holding facility for unaccompanied children should no longer be used for detaining UASC. If, exceptionally, they are held in this latter facility for short periods pending its closure, they should be provided with:

- **decent and hygienic material conditions;**
- **bed linen, sufficient hygiene products and the possibility to wash their clothes;**
- **access to their personal belongings and to their mobile phones;**
- **several hours of organised activities every day, and possibilities to exercise in the fresh air outside of the small barred covered yard.**

Further, it should be staffed with properly trained men and women, including a social worker and a psychologist, and offer a range of age appropriate purposeful activities.

49. In the course of the July visit, the CPT's delegation met with an unaccompanied minor who was being detained alone in a 9m² cell at *Mygdonia Border Guard Station* near Thessaloniki. He had arrived there two days before, after having been detained for one day in another police station. Material conditions at the border guard station were poor: the cell was dirty, with insufficient access to natural light, mattresses and blankets piled up in the cell had not been cleaned and the sanitary annex of the cell was in an unhygienic state, covered with mould. The juvenile had no access to outdoor exercise and no activities were on offer. He notably complained that he had not been informed about his situation and his detention in a language that he understood, that he was not provided with support and that he had not received any hygienic products.

The duty officer explained that all UASC who are held under "protective custody" in the Thessaloniki area are brought to this establishment. According to the registers, in 2016, some 100 UASC had been detained at the facility, with a peak in May when 32 UASC had been held there, some of whom for up to 20 days. Shortly before the CPT's visit, 13 UASC who were between 11 and 17 years old, had been held together in the above cell and in another similarly poor cell of some 32m² for up to 12 days. During this time, they were not offered any access to outdoor exercise and the delegation noted that one of the boys had self-harmed and had to be taken to hospital. The conditions under which these children were held could well have amounted to inhuman and degrading treatment.

In the CPT's view, placing UASC for several days or even weeks in police custody for "protection" purposes without any assistance and psycho-social support instead of providing them with accommodation in an appropriate shelter is unacceptable. The children's welfare should come first which, by definition, should exclude accommodating them in police or border guard stations.

In the light of the above remarks, the CPT recommends that the Greek authorities end the detention of UASC in police or border guard stations.

50. Further, the registers at *Kordelio Border Guard Station* in Thessaloniki indicated that women and families had regularly been detained together with their children, including infants and babies. For instance, two weeks before the July visit, 16 persons, including several families with six children were accommodated in the two detention cells of the facility.⁵³ The police commander in charge of the facility indicated that under Greek legislation these children were not considered formally detained but were only “accompanying” their parent(s). While the time of stay was generally short (i.e. one or two days), almost no efforts were made to accommodate the specific needs of the children.

The CPT considers that the accommodation of children accompanying their parent(s) together with other adults in a police or border guard station can have a negative psychological effect on the child’s development and well-being, particularly when the child is young. The placement of children with their parents in a police or border guard station should only occur as a last resort (i.e. in extremis as a place of safety) and should be as short as possible (i.e. no longer than a few hours). Further, the conditions of detention should be as non-carceral as possible with access to outdoor areas and play grounds. Every possible effort should be made to avoid separating children from their parent(s).

The CPT recommends that the Greek authorities end all detention of parents with children in police and border guard stations.

⁵³ One cell measured some 10m² with insufficient access to natural light and the shower and artificial light in the adjacent sanitary annex did not work. The other cell was some 23m² in size. However, the duty officer informed the CPT that, in case that women or families were detained at the facility, both cell doors would be kept open and detainees could circulate between the cells and in the corridor.

C. Adults in immigration detention (other than in RICs)

1. Preliminary remarks

51. The CPT has, during its previous visits to the country, examined in detail the situation of irregular migrants detained in police stations and in special holding facilities and strongly criticised their conditions of detention and their treatment. One objective of the July 2016 visit was to examine a number of police stations and holding facilities for irregular migrants to assess the treatment and conditions of detention of foreign nationals held under aliens' legislation. To that end, the CPT's delegation carried out follow-up visits to Drapetsona Police Station⁵⁴ as well as to Athens Airport⁵⁵, Petrou Ralli⁵⁶ and Thessaloniki⁵⁷ holding facilities for irregular migrants. Regrettably, the findings of the July 2016 visit indicate that the situation of foreign nationals deprived of their liberty under aliens' legislation has not improved.

52. The basic legislative framework for the detention of foreign nationals deprived of their liberty under aliens' legislation in Greece has not fundamentally changed since the CPT's previous visits, with the exception of the amendments introduced by Law 4375/2016 (see paragraphs 5 and 12).⁵⁸ It remains that irregular migrants can be held in administrative detention for the purpose of deportation, return or readmission for up to six months – a period which can be extended for a further 12 months under certain conditions; foreign nationals may thus be held for a maximum of 18 months under aliens' legislation.⁵⁹

2. Ill-treatment

53. In the course of the July 2016 visit, the CPT's delegation again received a number of credible allegations of physical ill-treatment of foreign national detainees by police officers notably at Thessaloniki and Petrou Ralli holding facilities, some of which were supported by medical evidence.

⁵⁴ See *inter alia* CPT/Inf (2014) 26, paragraphs 36 and 51.

⁵⁵ See CPT/Inf (2014) 26, paragraphs 73 and 77.

⁵⁶ See *inter alia* CPT/Inf (2016) 4, paragraphs 114-117, and CPT/Inf (2014) 26, paragraphs 61 and 67 to 77.

⁵⁷ See CPT/Inf (2014) 26, paragraphs 76-77.

⁵⁸ In particular, Section 46 of Law 4375/2016 regulates the situation of asylum applicants who are deprived of their liberty under aliens' legislation, notably for the purpose of deportation, return or readmission, reducing the maximum duration of detention for asylum seekers to 45 days, which may be extended by another 45 days. Thus asylum seekers may be detained under exceptional circumstances (for instance, if there is a risk of escape or if the person applied for asylum only to prevent his/her return or readmission) for up to three months. Further, the provision adds additional safeguards, such as access to free legal aid and the fact that alternatives to detention must be explored first.

⁵⁹ See Section 76 of Law 3386/2005 and Section 30 of Law 3907/2011.

In particular, at Thessaloniki Special holding facility, several persons alleged that they had been slapped in the face and had received punches and/or kicks to various parts of the body, including to the head, by police officers responsible for their care. Some detainees were ill-treated inside or just outside the cell in which they were held in full view of other detainees, while others claimed that they were beaten in the unoccupied auxiliary cell located at the entrance of the corridor. On one occasion, five police officers, some of whom were apparently wearing steel capped boots, entered one of the cells and allegedly punched and kicked all persons detained there for having asked that the air-conditioning be turned on. Several detainees in the establishment claimed that they were physically ill-treated for merely having requested for information on their situation or to be provided with either water, a mattress, a blanket or medication.

At Petrou Ralli holding facility, a few isolated ill-treatment allegations were brought to the attention of the delegation by detainees. One person alleged that he had been handcuffed to the barred gate at the entrance to wing Δ4 on the second floor as a punishment, where he had had to spend the whole night without food, water or access to toilet. Upon examination by the delegation's medical doctor, the person concerned displayed *inter alia* two parallel bruises on the right wrist corresponding to cuff marks. This incident was observed by many detainees held in this particular wing. There is no justification for such a punitive measure; disciplinary sanctions should only be applied in accordance with the law and with clear and formally established procedures. **The practice of handcuffing persons to fixed objects should be ended immediately.**

The delegation also received several allegations by detainees of verbal abuse and foul language by some police officers in both establishments.

The CPT reiterates its recommendation that the Greek authorities take rigorous action to counter acts of ill-treatment in holding facilities for irregular migrants. That action should include instigating effective investigations into allegations of ill-treatment and establishing an effective complaints system regarding alleged ill-treatment by the police.

Further, **all police officers assigned to custodial tasks in such holding facilities should be provided with appropriate training in inter-personal skills and be regularly reminded that any ill-treatment of detainees, including of a verbal nature, will be punished accordingly.**

3. Conditions of detention

a. Police stations

54. In its previous visit reports, the CPT has repeatedly been very critical of the conditions of detention found in many police and border guard stations, which did not offer suitable accommodation for lengthy periods of detention. In particular, the Committee has found that police detention facilities in the Attika region were totally unsuitable for holding detained persons for periods of longer than 24 hours. Consequently, the CPT called upon the Greek authorities to ensure that detained irregular migrants are only held in centres specifically designed to meet the requirements of this population.⁶⁰ Yet, foreign nationals continue to be detained in some police stations for many months.

⁶⁰ See CPT/Inf (2014) 26, paragraphs 35-51.

55. At *Drapetsona Police Station* in Piraeus, living conditions in the two larger custodial areas were squalid.⁶¹ The first detention area comprised seven cells⁶² that were permanently dark as they possessed no artificial lighting and had very little access to natural light. In the communal sanitary annex, most showers were not working and the toilet cubicles were in complete darkness. This block was regularly used to hold irregular migrants; however, at the time of the July visit, 13 foreign national remand prisoners were being detained on trafficking charges in conditions that were unsuitable for detaining persons for even a few hours; all had been held there for more than seven months with no access to outdoor exercise or any purposeful activities.

The conditions in the second custodial area, where 29 foreign nationals were being held mainly for deportation purposes, were even worse; the dungeon-like area had no access to natural light or fresh air. It contained ten completely dark and malodorous cells. Most detainees had to sleep on worn-out, extremely dirty and infested mattresses or blankets on either a plinth or the floor; most suffered from severe skin problems. Hygiene was particularly poor; toilets and showers in the communal sanitary annex had almost no lighting, were infested with cockroaches and other vermin, and in a dilapidated and insalubrious state, with drainage water running regularly from the toilets into detainees' cells. At the time of the July visit, 14 foreign nationals had been held in these conditions for more than 30 days without once having left the facility to be offered fresh air or to see the sky. In the CPT's view, holding people in such conditions could be considered as inhuman and degrading treatment; in addition, it represents a public health risk.

At the end of the visit, the CPT's delegation invoked Article 8, paragraph 5, of the Convention and made an immediate observation, requesting the Greek authorities to take *Drapetsona Police Station* out of service and to transfer the detained persons to a more suitable facility. As stated above, no response has been received from the Greek authorities regarding the implementation of this immediate observation.

The CPT recommends that the Greek authorities take immediate steps to take out of service definitively *Drapetsona Police Station*.

Further, **the Committee once again calls upon the Greek authorities to take urgent steps to ensure that all irregular migrants currently detained in police stations are transferred without delay to centres specifically designed to meet the requirements of this population and staffed by suitably-qualified personnel.**

b. Special holding facilities for irregular migrants

56. The CPT has stated in previous reports that the conditions of detention in *Petrou Ralli* and *Thessaloniki* special holding facilities were totally inadequate for holding irregular migrants for short periods of time, let alone for weeks or months. The findings of the July 2016 visit indicate that the situation has not improved.

⁶¹ The police station also contained one multi-occupancy cell where two persons were being held in custody at the time of the visit.

⁶² One cell was being used as a storage room.

57. In particular, at *Thessaloniki Special holding facility for irregular migrants*, which is located on the floor above the Metagogon (Transfer) Centre, foreign nationals continued to be held in unsanitary and poor conditions for up to four months or more. At the time of the July visit, 108 foreign nationals were being detained in cramped conditions for deportation purposes in eight of the nine holding cells of the facility.⁶³ Cells were not equipped with beds, plinths or any chairs and detainees were forced to spend all day lying on filthy, infested mattresses on the floor while the blankets provided were also dirty, worn and flea-infested. Many of the showers and toilets inside the cells were dilapidated and insalubrious. Detainees were not provided with any outdoor exercise and were denied access to their personal belongings. Further, the heat and humidity in the cells were extreme as the air-conditioning was almost never switched on.

Moreover, the lack of hygiene and the absence of any health-care staff visiting the facility represented a public health risk. Most of the detainees had developed skin infections, including scabies, and they were constantly scratching themselves. On no less than four occasions, the delegation had to arrange for detainees to be sent to hospital for further assessment and treatment, including two persons who were suspected of having tuberculosis. Despite repeated requests by detainees to see a doctor, no such access was granted. Further, the delegation learned that there had been a number of suicide attempts at the facility in the recent past and yet no action had been taken to provide counselling or to put in place suicide prevention measures.

Further, the Hellenic Police provision of 5.87 € per day to cover all the needs of a detained person is totally insufficient. For instance, two detainees alleged that they were unable to buy food for several days since they had to save sufficient money to purchase medicines (the receipt of which they were able to show to the CPT's delegation). Others claimed that they had to share food in order to save money for other purchases. The current financial provision was established to cover the needs of criminal suspects held in police stations for a short period, not those of immigration detainees held for prolonged periods. At a minimum, the State should cover for the basic needs of detained persons (i.e. food, water, personal hygiene and cleaning products, and medication).

At the end of the visit, the CPT's delegation invoked Article 8, paragraph 5, of the Convention and made an immediate observation requesting the Greek authorities to ensure that every detained person at this facility is provided with a clean mattress and bedding, that all cells are disinfested, and that, for public health reasons, medical screening is carried out upon admission and a doctor and a nurse are present several hours each day. It also requested that immediate steps be taken to address the indifferent attitude of staff towards detainees by putting in place a new robust management of the facility. As stated above, no response has been received from the Greek authorities regarding the implementation of this immediate observation.

The CPT recommends that the Greek authorities take immediate steps to ensure that every person detained at Thessaloniki Special holding facility for irregular migrants is provided with a clean mattress and bedding, that all cells are disinfested, and that, for public health reasons, medical screening is carried out upon admission and a doctor and a nurse are present several hours each day.

Further, it wishes to be informed of the action taken to address the indifferent attitude of staff towards detainees and the installation of a new robust management at the facility.

⁶³ The large majority of detainees were from Pakistan. The ninth cell held four persons under criminal charges. One additional auxiliary cell was unoccupied at the time of the visit.

58. At *Petrou Ralli Special holding facility for irregular migrants*, out of the 183 foreign nationals detained there with a view to being deported at the time of the July visit, two had been held at the facility for more than one year and six for more than six months.⁶⁴ The material conditions were very poor. Most of the barred cells in the four male wings on the second floor were filthy, stuffy and infested; mattresses and blankets were generally worn and dirty. The communal sanitary annexes were unhygienic and in a poor state of repair and detainees complained that they did not receive sufficient hygiene and cleaning products. Further, detainees were locked in their cells for much of the day and the delegation found that outdoor exercise was not offered on a daily basis to all detainees and, at times, the amount of time offered hardly exceeded 15 minutes.

Further, there were no improvements as regards health-care services at the facility and most of the issues raised by the CPT in the context of its 2015 visit⁶⁵ remained problematic: these include the absence of health-care staff during evenings, nights and weekends; the absence of a psychiatrist and other specialists, including a dentist; the lack of medical screening on arrival; the lack of systematic recording of all medical consultations; the filtering of requests to see a doctor by police officers; the non-respect of medical confidentiality (police officers usually requested detainees for the reasons for a medical consultation, they had access to confidential medical information of detained persons contained in the ordinary custody registers and they administered medication to the detainees); the unnecessary isolation of foreign nationals who were HIV positive or who had Hepatitis; and the lack of self-harm and suicide prevention measures.

59. *Athens Airport holding facilities* have been described in previous reports.⁶⁶ At the time of the July visit, the conditions observed were, on the whole, adequate. That said, detainees could still not benefit from outdoor exercise, which makes the facility unsuitable for detaining persons for longer than 24 hours. However, foreign nationals were usually held for several weeks in the facility; one person had been detained for seven weeks. On the day of the July visit, 13 foreign nationals⁶⁷ were being detained in the nine cells, while four persons were being held in the other part of the building, including one woman and one asylum-seeker.

Further, conditions in the holding rooms at the Airport Terminal for irregular migrants apprehended upon arrival or departure were only suitable for short-term detention of several hours. It goes without saying that persons should not be held there overnight. At the time of the visit, one foreign national and a couple with their four children were being held in two holding rooms following their arrival to Greece. Persons who were temporarily held in these rooms upon their arrival in the country were not systematically recorded in a register.⁶⁸ **The CPT recommends that all persons placed in these two holding rooms be properly recorded in a register.**

⁶⁴ In addition, 31 unaccompanied or separated children were being held at the facility (see paragraph 44).

⁶⁵ See CPT/Inf (2016) 4, paragraph 116.

⁶⁶ See notably CPT/Inf (2014) 26, paragraph 73.

⁶⁷ Three additional detainees were attending court hearings when the CPT's delegation visited the facility.

⁶⁸ According to the duty officer, foreign nationals deprived of their liberty were only registered once they had been transferred to the main holding facility.

60. Moreover, foreign nationals in all three holding facilities complained about the lack of interpretation services and that they were generally not informed about their legal situation in a language they could understand. Detainees who did not speak Greek could simply not communicate with police staff guarding them. Further, all official documents, including detention and deportation orders, were only provided in Greek and were generally not translated. Several persons explained to the delegation that they wanted to return voluntarily to their country of origin and were prepared to buy the airline ticket themselves but that there appeared to be no possibility of communicating with the authorities responsible for managing their situation.

61. **The CPT once again calls upon the Greek authorities to ensure that, in all holding facilities:**

- **all detainees are provided with full information, in a language they understand, on their legal situation and interpretation services are made available if required;**
- **all detainees are offered a bed or plinth, mattresses, blanket and bedding, all clean and regularly cleaned and disinfected;**
- **all detainees are offered at least one hour of outdoor exercise a day;**
- **all detainees have access to their personal belongings, including mobile phones;**
- **each facility has a common association room, equipped with a television and reading material;**
- **a programme of activities (educational, recreational and vocational) is developed;**
- **all detainees are provided with sufficient quantities of food, water, personal hygiene and cleaning products, and medication, all free of charge;**
- **regular maintenance work and disinfection is carried out and sufficient funding is made available to this end.**

Further, the CPT recommends that the Greek authorities take the necessary steps to ensure that, at Petrou Ralli and Thessaloniki holding facilities:

- **medical screening is systematically carried out upon admission;**
- **a doctor and at least one nurse are present every day, including on weekends;**
- **visiting specialists, including psychiatrists and dentists regularly attend;**
- **a system is established (e.g. written requests to be directly collected by health care personnel) to allow detainees to directly request consultations with health-care staff;**
- **medical confidentiality is strictly guaranteed;**
- **self-harm and suicide preventive measures are put in place.**

The CPT would also like to be informed of the procedures in place to expedite the return of persons who volunteer to return to their country of origin, especially when they are willing to purchase their own air tickets.

D. Treatment of criminal suspects detained by the police

1. Preliminary remarks

62. The treatment of criminal suspects detained by law enforcement officials in Greece has been a long-standing concern of the CPT. Regrettably, despite overwhelming indications to the contrary, the authorities have to date consistently refused to consider that ill-treatment is a serious problem in Greece and have not taken the required action to implement the Committee's recommendations and to combat this phenomenon effectively.⁶⁹

In the context of the July 2016 visit, the treatment of criminal suspects by the police was not a major focus. The CPT's delegation did however visit several police stations where it was confronted with many of the same problems that the Committee has encountered during its previous visits.

63. The legal framework governing police custody in Greece has remained unchanged. Criminal suspects were usually presented before a public prosecutor within 24 hours and referred to a judge within the subsequent three-day time-limit required by law.⁷⁰

2. Ill-treatment

64. In the course of the July 2016 visit, the CPT's delegation again received a number of credible allegations of physical ill-treatment of criminal suspects (including of juveniles)⁷¹ detained by the Hellenic Police. The allegations particularly related to excessive use of force by the police at the time of apprehension, after the person had been brought under control, as well as to the period of questioning by officers of the Security Departments, notably at Alexandra Street Police Headquarters and at Chios Police Station. Alleged ill-treatment generally consisted of slaps, punches, kicks and truncheon blows to the body and to the head. In a number of cases, the medical evidence – based on a physical examination of the persons concerned and/or consultation of medical files – revealed injuries that were consistent with the allegations of ill-treatment.

65. At Alexandra Street Police Headquarters, a number of detained persons arrested on different days made detailed allegations of how they were ill-treated by Security Department officers while being interviewed on the 11th floor. In particular, they stated that while handcuffed behind their backs they were punched and kicked in the chest and received slaps to the face. One person in particular referred to being handcuffed very tight, punched in the back and receiving a kick to his cuffed hands; he said that he was taken to hospital afterwards but did not tell the doctor about how he had sustained the injuries as the police officers were present and that he did not receive a copy of the doctor's report. Apparently, the ill-treatment was intended to get the detained persons to divulge further information and/or to sign a statement.

⁶⁹ See CPT/Inf (2016) 4, paragraphs 15-44, and CPT/Inf (2014) 26, paragraphs 14-25.

⁷⁰ See CPT/Inf (2014) 26, paragraph 13. Upon application by the person, or in exceptional circumstances, this time-limit can be extended by two more days.

⁷¹ See CPT/Inf (2016) 4, paragraph 97.

At Chios Town Police Station, six of the ten foreign nationals present complained to the CPT's delegation that they had been beaten by police officers following their apprehension. Two of them stated that they were brought to the police station around midnight and placed in an office of the Security Department and, while handcuffed and seated on chairs, they had received kicks and knees to the body and head from several police officers. One of them also alleged that while seated and handcuffed behind his back, a police officer had placed his foot on the cuffs and then stood up with all his body weight exerting considerable stress and pain on the detainee's wrists. The person in question still had clear red cuff marks around his wrists some 18 days after the alleged incident. Another person, arrested the day prior to the delegation's visit, stated that he was brought to the police station at 4.30 a.m. and placed in the small holding cell outside the main detention area and that subsequently several police officers entered the cell and delivered a series of baton blows and slaps to his back, neck and head. The upper back and shoulder area of the person displayed multiple visible bruises and the delegation requested the detainee to be seen by a doctor. The doctor's report states inter alia "*Reported injuries sustained to the nose. Presents lacerations and bruises on the upper third of the back. Presents bruises on the mid left arm.*"

66. The information gathered by the delegation through interviews with detained persons in different police stations indicates that infliction of ill-treatment particularly against foreign nationals, including for the purpose of obtaining confessions, continues to be a frequent practice. Increased efforts and determined action by the Greek authorities to tackle the widespread and deep-rooted problem of ill-treatment by the police is required.

Moreover, the Committee reiterates the necessity for the competent authorities to promote a fundamentally different approach towards methods of police investigation. First and foremost, the precise aim of questioning criminal suspects must be made crystal clear: that aim should be to obtain accurate and reliable information in order to discover the truth about the matter under investigation, not to obtain a confession from somebody already presumed, in the eyes of the interviewing officers, to be guilty.

As stated in the report on the 2015 visit,⁷² such an approach must involve more rigorous recruitment procedures, improved professional training for police officers and the adoption of detailed instructions on the proper questioning of criminal suspects. The monitoring and accurate recording of police interviews requires the introduction of electronic (i.e. audio and/or preferably video) recording equipment.

The CPT reiterates its recommendation that the Greek authorities ensure that all law enforcement officials understand clearly that any form of ill-treatment of detained persons – including verbal abuse, racist behaviour, threats, and psychological ill-treatment – constitutes a criminal offence and will be prosecuted accordingly. Further, regular professional training for police operational officers and investigators should be provided, which covers appropriate interview and investigation techniques, as well as the prevention of ill-treatment. In addition, steps should be taken to monitor police interviewing standards and procedures and to introduce electronic (i.e. audio and/or video) recording of police interviews.

Moreover, **in order to back up any message of zero-tolerance and to reinforce the training, effective investigations into allegations of ill-treatment must be undertaken to demonstrate that criminal acts by the police will be punished and to counter the current culture of impunity that pervades parts of the police force.**

⁷² See CPT/Inf (2016) 4, paragraph 22.

67. In this context, the CPT wishes to recall that, in the course of the 2015 visit, the CPT's delegation looked into the effectiveness of investigations concerning allegations of ill-treatment by law enforcement officials. The response of the Greek authorities to the 2015 visit report did not reassure the Committee that sufficient steps are being taken either to end the practice of ill-treatment by police officers or to ensure that effective investigations are carried out into allegations of ill-treatment by the police. In particular, there has still been no comprehensive response relating to the individual cases raised by the CPT in the report on the 2015 visit (see paragraphs 16 i and ii and 18). Nor has any information been provided to date on the action taken regarding the 34 cases of alleged serious ill-treatment by police officers that the Internal Affairs Directorate of the Hellenic Police (IAD) re-submitted to the Public Prosecutor in a 10-page letter (dated 16 April 2014, reference number 3021/8/1234-n), two of which the CPT's delegation examined *in extenso* in the course of the 2015 visit.

The CPT wishes to recall that the European Court of Human Rights has stated that a proper response by the authorities in investigating serious allegations of ill-treatment at the hands of the police or other similar agents of the State, in compliance with the Article 3 standards of the ECHR, is essential in maintaining public confidence in their adherence to the rule of law and in preventing any appearance of collusion or tolerance of unlawful acts.⁷³ The failure of States Parties to adequately respond to allegations of violations may in and of itself give rise to a separate and discrete violation of Article 3 on the part of the judicial authorities.

The CPT reiterates its recommendation that the competent supervisory prosecutorial authorities review the two cases referred to in paragraphs 34 to 38 of the report on the April 2015 visit (ref. CPT/Inf (2016) 4).

Further, the Committee reiterates its request to be provided with detailed information on the outcome of the investigations into the remaining 32 cases forwarded by the Internal Affairs Directorate to the Prosecutor's Office in the letter of 16 April 2014. It also wishes to receive a response in relation to the cases raised in paragraphs 16 i and ii and 18 of the report on the April 2015 visit (ref. CPT/Inf (2016) 4).

⁷³ See, for example, European Court of Human Rights *Lyapin v. Russia* Judgment of 24 October 2014.

3. Safeguards against ill-treatment

68. Once again, the CPT has to reiterate the findings from its previous visits: formal safeguards against ill-treatment (including the rights of notification of custody, access to a lawyer and access to a doctor) do not for the most part apply in practice from the very outset of a person's deprivation of liberty and more generally remain ineffective, despite the existence of clear rules.⁷⁴

69. As regards notification of custody, the CPT's delegation received many complaints from persons who were – or had recently been – in police custody, according to which they had not been able to notify promptly their next-of-kin of their detention.

The CPT once again calls upon the Greek authorities to take the necessary steps to ensure that every detained person is granted the right to notify a close relative or third party of their choice of their situation and placed in a position to effectively exercise this right as from the very outset of their deprivation of liberty.

70. As for the right of access to a lawyer, this right generally remains theoretical and illusory for those who do not have the financial means to pay for the services of a lawyer.

The majority of persons interviewed by the CPT's delegation claimed that they did not benefit from the presence of a lawyer during the initial period of their deprivation of liberty – and particularly prior to or during questioning by security police officers – when the risk of intimidation and physical ill-treatment is greatest. This is mainly due to the fact that legal aid is not available at the stage of police investigation or when criminal suspects are questioned by the police. At Chios Police Station, the delegation met a 15 year old juvenile who was not provided with a lawyer until after 36 hours of detention following the prosecutor's decision to maintain him in police custody with adult suspects for a further four days over a weekend. Further, the juvenile was provided with the same lawyer as his adult accomplice and the lawyer interviewed the two together in the middle of the corridor of the police station on a bench.

Moreover, some detained persons alleged that they only met their lawyer during the hearing before the investigative judge, when bail or remand in custody was determined. The delegation received again complaints about the poor quality of the *ex officio* lawyers' work and that they explicitly advised their clients not to complain officially about any alleged ill-treatment.

In the light of the above, the CPT once again calls upon the Greek authorities to take immediate and effective steps to ensure that the right of access to a lawyer applies for any detained person as from the very outset of deprivation of liberty by the police. This will require the extension of the existing legal aid system to the police investigation stage or when the suspect is questioned by the police, irrespective of whether the person concerned has formally been declared "accused". If necessary, the relevant legislation should be amended.

The Committee also recommends that *ex officio* lawyers be reminded, through the Bar Associations, of the importance of their role in preventing and, if necessary, reporting ill-treatment by the police.

⁷⁴ See CPT/Inf (2014) 26, paragraphs 27-32 and CPT/Inf (2016) 4, paragraphs 45-54.

71. As was the case during previous visits, the right of access to a doctor remains ineffective in practice for most persons deprived of their liberty by the police, with whom the CPT's delegation met. Only in the case of a medical emergency was a detained person transferred to the closest hospital, subject to transport arrangements. Several detained persons – notably those who alleged ill-treatment by the police – claimed that they did not receive the necessary medical treatment while in police custody.

The ineffectiveness of the current system was tragically brought to the fore when a detained person died in his cell on the 7th floor holding facility at Alexandra Street Police Headquarters in Athens on Friday, 22 July 2016. According to other detained persons present in the facility, the person had been asking to have his medication and to see a doctor since his arrival in the facility two days earlier and that – prior to dying – he had been unable to go to the toilet and had soiled his bed with faeces, resulting in an unbearable smell within the detention area. At the end of the visit the CPT's delegation had request to receive a copy of the autopsy report and to be informed of the outcome of the investigation.

Furthermore, the delegation looked into the recent suicide of a detainee at Monasteriou General Police Headquarters in Thessaloniki who had hung himself on 20 July 2016, three hours after returning from court. From the information available to the delegation, it was clear that the person was determined to take his own life. Nevertheless, it is imperative that a thorough review be carried out of the way in which detained persons are assessed and managed in police stations, particularly persons suffering from addictions. The delegation found that there was no proper recording of which detainee is held in which cell at a particular time and that the CCTV system only worked in real time and did not store the images at all. More importantly, the suicide highlighted a lack of training in first aid and, in particular, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for police officers. There should always be at least one police officer on duty with training in CPR. Further, there was no protocol in place for the management of suicide attempts.

The CPT recommends that at least one police officer on duty in a police detention facility be trained in first aid and in particular cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Further, guidelines should be issued to all police stations providing information on the steps to be taken in the case of an attempted suicide. It would also like to receive a copy of any review carried out on the assessment and management of detained persons following the suicide at Monasteriou General Police Headquarters.

Further, the CPT would like to receive a copy of the autopsy report and to be informed of the outcome of the investigation into the death at Alexandra Street Police Headquarters on 22 July 2016.

72. The Committee remains concerned as regards the respect of medical confidentiality for persons detained by the police. Police officers continue to be present during all external examinations in public hospitals and to be provided with medical information on detained persons.

The CPT reiterates its recommendation that the Greek authorities ensure that the principle of medical confidentiality is strictly respected.

73. Further, the Committee continues to believe that the Greek authorities should establish a system of regular visits by doctors and/or nurses reporting to a doctor to police stations to screen new arrivals and adequately deal with potential medical problems (including contagious diseases).

The CPT reiterates its recommendation that the Greek authorities review the provision of health care in police stations and consider establishing a system of regular visits by doctors and/or nurses reporting to a doctor.

74. As for information on rights, a two-page information leaflet (Δ-33 form) detailing the rights of detained persons was available in various languages in most police stations visited. However, the CPT's delegation met again a number of foreign nationals who stated that they were unable to understand the information provided and who claimed that they had signed documents in the Greek language without knowing their content.

The CPT reiterates its recommendation that detained foreign nationals who do not understand the Greek language are promptly provided with the services of an interpreter and are not requested to sign any statements or other documents without such assistance.

75. The custody records consulted by the CPT's delegation in the different police stations visited in the course of the 2016 visit were often poorly kept, with numerous errors, corrections or omissions (e.g. missing entries for arrival or times of transfer or release, etc.).

The Committee reiterates its recommendation that the Greek authorities take effective steps to ensure that custody registers are properly maintained, accurately record the times of actual apprehension, admission, placement in a cell, release or transfer, and reflect all other aspects of custody.

Further, there were no effective avenues of complaint accessible to detained persons. No information was available to detained persons on how they could access complaints procedures either within the police or to oversight mechanisms such as the NPM or Prosecutor's Office. **The CPT recommends that the information leaflet provided to detainees should also include a right to make a complaint and that within each police station detained persons should have access to information on different complaints bodies and on how to make a complaint.**

4. Conditions of detention

76. The CPT has strongly criticised the conditions of detention observed in many police stations throughout the country. It has repeatedly stressed that the detention facilities in most of the police stations visited were totally unsuitable for holding detained persons for periods of longer than 24 hours. This remained the case at the time of the July 2016 visit.

77. The delegation again visited the main detention facility on the 7th floor of *Alexandra Street Police Headquarters* in Athens and noted that the conditions, as described in the 2015 report, remained adequate for short stays. At the time of the July visit the facility was crowded,⁷⁵ with 56 persons in nine cells in the male section; the official capacity for this section was 45 places but as the cells measured only 12m², it should be reduced to 27 as no cell should accommodate more than three persons overnight. In the female section, there were 15 women in seven cells for an official capacity of 27 places. It is positive that the cell doors in both sections were kept open and that the detained persons could freely access the corridor, the sanitary facilities and the pay phone whenever required. However, there was still no access to an outdoor exercise yard and yet detained persons were regularly held for periods of one week or longer. The facility was already starting to show signs of wear and tear.

Monasteriou General Police Headquarters in Thessaloniki has been described in previous reports.⁷⁶ On the day of the visit there were only four detained persons for a capacity of 72 and the conditions were adequate. It is positive that the numbers have been reduced which has rendered the conditions better. However, the continued lack of any outdoor exercise yard means that the facility is not suitable for stays of longer than 24 hours.

78. The material conditions in the police stations of Chios Town, Mytilene and Samos were poor.

At *Chios Town Police Station*, ten persons were being held in the detention area which consisted of a large cell (40m²) with 12 concrete plinths and a smaller cell (21m²) with seven plinths, both of which had good access to natural light but were dilapidated and dirty. In addition, there was a communal area outside the cells and a sanitary annex with one functioning toilet and a cold water shower. Access to the outdoor exercise yard (some 20m²) was apparently only granted once a week for about 30 minutes when the detention area was being cleaned. Further, the delegation met a juvenile who was being held together with adult detainees.

At *Mytilene Police Station*, the detention area consisted of a narrow corridor off which there were five cells (two with seven plinths, two with six plinths and one with two plinths) and a toilet and shower facility. The facility was very dirty and shabby, the toilets emitted a foul smell and were unhygienic and dilapidated, and there was hardly any light (natural or artificial). The small two plinth cell was also very sombre. At the time of the visit, seven men and one woman were being held at the facility. There was no outdoor exercise yard.

At *Vathi Police Station* in Samos, the detention area consisted of two larger cells of 24m² containing six and eight concrete plinths respectively and a smaller cell of 12m². At the time of the visit, eight persons were being held at the police station, one of whom had already been held there for 32 days. The facility frequently accommodated more than 15 persons; for example, 27 persons were detained between 5 and 15 June 2016 – and for a few nights during this period the numbers reached as high as 38 persons. The cells were filthy and strewn with rubbish, and the sanitary facilities were insalubrious. There was no outdoor exercise yard.

⁷⁵ The day before the visit, a group of 55 persons from Taiwan (40 men and 15 women) had been brought to the facility.

⁷⁶ See, for example, CPT/Inf (2014) 26, paragraph 41.

At *Pythagorion Police Station* in Samos, the conditions in the only cell were such that persons should not be held there for more than a few hours; the cell had no access to natural light and poor artificial lighting, was dirty and had no access to hot water and no outdoor yard. The cell was not regularly used but the CPT's delegation noted that persons had been held in the cell for periods of 15 to 25 days in January and March 2016, including a 15-year old juvenile who was held with two adults for 15 days.

79. The Committee calls upon the Greek authorities to ensure that, in all police stations:

- every detained person held in a multi-occupancy cell has a minimum of 4m² of living space excluding the sanitary annex;
- all detained persons have ready access to a proper toilet facility at all times, including at night;
- each detained person is provided with a clean mattress, clean blanket, clean bedding and a means of rest, such as a plinth or a bed;
- all detained persons are provided with adequate and appropriate food, which includes at least one hot meal a day;
- all detained persons staying longer than 24 hours are provided with a basic sanitary kit (including adequate rations of soap, washing powder, toilet paper, shampoo, shaving utensils and toothpaste, and a toothbrush), free of charge;
- all detained persons are provided with sufficient quantities of detergent to keep their cells clean;
- detention areas (including sanitary facilities) are maintained in an adequate state of repair and cleanliness;
- all detained persons have adequate lighting;
- all detained persons staying longer than 24 hours are provided with access to hot water for the purpose of washing;
- all persons detained longer than 24 hours are offered access to outdoor exercise every day.

Further, if juveniles suspected of a criminal offence are exceptionally detained in police stations, they should not be held together with adults and should be provided with appropriate care and support.

APPENDIX I

LIST OF THE ESTABLISHMENTS VISITED BY THE CPT'S DELEGATIONS

A. April 2016 visit

Reception and Identification Centres (so-called “hotspots”):

- Moria Centre, Lesvos
- VIAL Centre, Chios

Police Stations and Coast Guard Detention Facilities:

- Mytilene Police Station, Lesvos
- Chios Town Police Station, Chios
- Chios Coast Guard detention facility, Chios

B. July 2016 visit

Reception and Identification Centres (so-called “hotspots”):

- Moria Centre, Lesvos
- Vathi Centre, Samos
- VIAL Centre, Chios

Immigration Detention Facilities:

- Athens Airport holding facilities for irregular migrants
- Amygdaleza Special holding facility for unaccompanied children
- Petrou Ralli Special holding facility for irregular migrants
- Thessaloniki Special holding facility for irregular migrants

Police and Border Guard Stations:

- Alexandra Street Police Headquarters, Athens
- Chios Town Police Station, Chios
- Drapetsona Police Station, Piraeus
- Kordelio Border Guard Station, Thessaloniki
- Monasteriou General Police Headquarters, Thessaloniki
- Mygdonia Border Guard Station, Thessaloniki
- Mytilene Police Station, Lesvos
- Pythagorion Police Station, Samos
- Vathi Police Station, Samos

APPENDIX II

**LIST OF THE NATIONAL AUTHORITIES AND ORGANISATIONS
WITH WHICH THE CPT'S DELEGATION HELD CONSULTATIONS**

A. Ministerial authorities

Ministry of the Interior and Administrative Reconstruction

Nikolaos TOSKAS	Alternate Minister of Citizen Protection
Zacharoula TSIRIGOTI	Lt. General, Chief of Staff of the Hellenic Police Headquarters
Menelaos KOSTARIS Hellenic Police	Brigadier General, Illegal Immigration Control Division,
Georgios ALEXOPOULOS	First Counsellor of Embassy, Diplomatic Advisor to the Alternate Minister
Georgios STAMATAKIS	Legal Advisor to the Alternate Minister
Ioannis PRODROMOU	Lieutenant, Illegal Immigration Control Division, Hellenic Police and CPT Liaison Officer
Sevasti TREPA	Asylum Service
Evaggelia DIMITRIADOU	First Reception Service

Ministry of Migration

Ioannis MOUZALAS	Alternate Minister of Migration Policy
N. KARATAIDIS	Diplomatic Advisor to the Alternate Minister
Maria PAPAKONSTANTINOY	Diplomatic Advisor to the Alternate Minister
Markos PAPAKOSTANTIS	Legal Advisor to the Alternate Minister
Maria PANAGIOTOU	Advisor to the Alternate Minister of Migration Policy

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Panayotis STOURNARAS	Ambassador, Director of Directorate for OSCE and Council of Europe
Alexandros BOUDOURIS	Head of Council of Europe Department
Efthymios TZIOKAS	Council of Europe Department

General Secretariat of the Ministry of National Defense / Coordination Body

Dimitrios PANTELATOS Colonel (Air Force)

B. Other authorities

Vassilis KARYDIS Acting Ombudsman and Head of the NPM

Foteini PANTELIDOU Human Rights Department and coordinator of the NPM team

Chrysa HATZI Human Rights Department and coordinator of the forced return team

Yiannis BOUTSELIS Human Rights Department

Matina POULOU Children's Rights Department

C. International Organisations

Philippe LECLERC Acting Representative, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees UNHCR Office in Greece

Ann MAYMANN Assistant Representative for Protection, UNHCR in Greece

Giorgios DAFNIS UNHCR

Kalliopi STEFANIKI Protection Officer, UNHCR in Greece

UNHCR Field Offices in Chios, Lesbos and Samos

Ioannis CHATZIGIANNIS European Union-Turkey Agreement Coordinator

Griogorios APOSTOLOU FRONTEX

D. Civil society

AITIMA

Amnesty International/Greek Section

Greek Council for Refugees

Médecins du Monde

Médecins sans Frontières/Greek Section