

Working Group II (Justice, Freedom, and Security)

Session 2: "Albania as a transit/host country"

April 11, 2016

Problems and Recommendations

→ Institutional Capacities in the Asylum and migration management

- Although Albania is far less likely to be affected by a large influx of refugees, a level of preparation should not be if there will be an increasing flow of refugees. Capacity and responsible authorities should be prepared for such cases.
- Although the shelters and centres in Albania provide the basic living conditions and sanitation remains problematic space to accept more refugees and the lack to provide the conditions necessary if the number increases in the future. Also be more other requirements in addition to the minimum needs such as education, health care, assistance by sociologists and psychologists, employment or training opportunities etc.
- **Being that Albania has lack of capacity to host a very large** number of refugees, another responsibility is to become a transit country. According to this suggestion, persons and asylum seekers who have no final purpose can stay in for short period of time(no more than 6 months) and can be trained on the language of the country where they will go. This process is followed by Slovakia, which held those who had the final destination of the United States are trained in English.
- Should be strengthened **border security measures**. The EU also plans to deploy teams or experts to those cities that have airports for a more effective process and without much cost.
- **Strengthening of Local Police Departments**, especially those areas that coastal or border. Increasing patrols and staff.

→ Legal framework and procedures undertaken in the area of migration and asylum

- The Albanian **legislation on foreigners and asylum is updated**, completed and in compliance with EU directives. Another problem is **the lack of cooperation** with government organizations or interest groups during the process of drafting the

laws or decisions of the Prime Minister as the case of two DCMs for the approval of the list of the third countries to secure and the decision to the national Commission of Asylum and Refugees.

- Due to European Legislation and directives of the Commission changing steadily since the **very process of illegal migration is dynamic**, the Albanian legislation **should be more flexible in adapting and changing it frequently** and efficiently to always in line with the acquis of the EU and updated
- Focus on the “**principle of non-refoulement**”, which means failure to return the refugees to their country of origin when this is uncertain, and there is a risk of infringement of life and integrity.
- Create a **unique card number and advice ID** with biometric residence permit are two other steps that should be finalized in this regard.
- **Documentation for foreign nationals who** enter illegally in Albania is the most important element for enabling the identification and registration. If enabled device with biometric identification card for all those who provide refugee status.

Working Group II (Justice, Freedom, and Security)

Session 3: (Non) legal emigration of Albanians and reintegration of returned citizens in Albania

April 11, 2016

- ➔ **Cooperation with various stakeholders both within and outside the country**
- The **role of civil society** in the whole process of the European Integration, but even more specifically on this situation is important and key element.
- Should be a **coordination of work between the authorities** such as the Ministry of Interior and Border Policy on identifying and determining the conditions of refugee or asylum seeker comes. It is very important **that return of refugees should not be automatic**, but to consider and study each case in detail and specific through many filters
- There is a **need for increased information exchange and establishment of contact points to prevent the migration flow**. It is important that the exchange of information to be strategic as well as technical assistance which also include the EU and Frontex.
- There is a **positive change in conducting interviews and forms for identification and registration of refugees** where the languages were added besides filling them Albanian and English language, **including Arabic, Persian and Pashtu**. However due to the wide range of people who can come it is very necessary to increase the number of languages including others. It is a bit difficult for the relevant authorities, because these languages are rare and specific in Albania, so that a deeper cooperation with civil society or other interested stakeholders can facilitate the process.
- It is suggested that the **establishment of joint and mixed with local experts and European ones** that can help with their experience in technical and logistical problems arising from illegal immigration.
- **Increased partnership and cooperation** with foreign non-governmental organization of those countries where more Albanian citizens seeking asylum or

migrate illegally. In this way it becomes easier identification of Albanian refugees and their demands. Also offered assistance to these people more easily.

➔ **Reintegration of returned Albanian citizens**

- The problem of refugees and illegal immigrants of Albanian state in the EU continues to be present in many EU countries. Albanian government and authorities should take measures to reduce illegal migration as Albania remains one of the countries with the highest number of asylum seekers. Measures to change this will positively impact on Albania's path towards the European Union.
- **The Helsinki Committee has introduced as a problematic issue to be taken into consideration by the relevant institutions, for Albanian citizens who were deported in our country.** Their integration in daily life should be careful and should take action immediately. Infrastructure leaves much to be desired.
- **For a good management on the situation at border crossing points,** state institutions may require collaboration with philanthropic organizations, to assist them with food and clothing.
- **Lack of data and studies in relation to asylum and illegal immigration** of Albanian citizens towards the EU. It is important to make such studies to see the situation and concrete measures to be taken and respond to situations that may arise.
- **Information on the rights and obligations** of the refugee including the right to appeal if he is unhappy with the decision taken by the authorities on his application for asylum.
- **Inform people that come in Albania and those from Albania.** In most cases people do not know their rights and obligations and the procedures that are allowed and not allowed.
- It is necessary to **inform sensitize the Albanian citizens on the dangers of illegal immigration** and the reasons, possibilities and procedures for acceptance or rejection of the asylum.

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