

“SPECIAL REPORT ON ASYLUM, RELOCATION AND RETURN OF MIGRANTS: TIME TO STEP UP ACTION TO ADDRESS DISPARITIES BETWEEN OBJECTIVES AND RESULTS”

Ref: SCC112350FR01-19PP-4

EASO'S reply

Paragraph 84. EASO highlights that the operating plans were agreed based on priorities identified by EASO and the hosting Member States.

Paragraph 91. EASO highlights that as from 2019 EASO started building capacity to assess the performance of its operations in Member States based on defined targets and baselines.

Box 7. EASO adds that as from 1 July 2019, the responsibility for vulnerability assessments has been handed back to the Greek Asylum Service. EASO retains the obligation to refer possible vulnerable applicants for assessment by the Greek Asylum Service.

Paragraph 148. EASO points out that the lack of alignments is due to the Member States not deploying sufficient experts, which is beyond EASO's control. In order to overcome this, EASO has deployed additional workforce, i.e. interim staff.

Recommendation 3a. EASO accepts the recommendation. EASO is exploring different complementary deployment modalities, that could be used in parallel and that would limit the impact of structural shortages of Member States experts, including not only the use of interims, but also the feasibility of an external expert roster and the creation of internal standby teams.

Recommendation 3b. EASO accepts the recommendation. High level outcome indicators, baselines and targets were agreed for the 2019 operating plans. The performance monitoring frameworks and related data collection will be continuously improved as captured in EASO's operations manual that will be completed in 2020.

Recommendation 3c. EASO accepts the recommendation. The Greek Asylum Service and EASO have started to use new standard operating procedures in respect of vulnerability, as of July 2019.

Recommendation 5a. EASO accepts the recommendation. EASO, in consultation with Greek Asylum Service, plans to increase its case workers from 69 to 240 by July 2020.

Recommendation 5b. EASO accepts the recommendation. From October 2019, an amendment to the existing operating plan for Italy will see EASO support for five tribunals to test second instance support. This will be mainstreamed from 2020 across the territory. EASO will continue seconding legal rapporteurs in Greece and will respond to additional requests appropriately.

Recommendation 5c. EASO accepts the recommendation.