

Welcome to Europe!

Some Information for your journey after leaving Athens...



last update: April 2012

Deportations to Greece are stopped in most countries of the EU

In January 2011 the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) decided in an individual case that Greece was violating the human rights of a refugee by detaining him under inhuman conditions and leaving him homeless. It also judged that Belgium violated his human rights by deporting him back to Greece (see: <http://w2eu.net/2011/01/22/front-kick-dublin-2/>).

Following that decision deportations to Greece were temporarily halted in most EU-countries, because hundreds of other “Greek” cases were expected to be judged in the same way. This decision indiscriminately concerns both: persons who have been fingerprinted and have a “white paper” (chartia) for 30 days and also asylum seekers (holders of pink cards) in Greece.

The temporary stop of deportations to Greece is a result of the struggles of migrants and their supporters: Many refugees have been resisting and, after having been deported once to Greece, started their journey all over again. The violation of their rights in Greece is well-known for a long time. Many refugees appealed against their deportation with the help of lawyers and NGOs.

Deportations to Greece have been based on an agreement between countries of the European Union (called “**Dublin II**”). According to this agreement all asylum seekers are to be returned to the country of arrival in Europe (or, in the case of unaccompanied minors only, to the country where they first applied for asylum) and they have only one chance to claim for asylum. Therefore, if authorities find your fingerprints in the database and can thus confirm that you have been

in Greece during your journey, in the past they may have tried to deport you there. After the ECHR-decision this is not possible anymore! But so far there is **only a deportation stop to Greece - not to any other EU-countries** (like Italy or Hungary for example). So if you have fingerprints in any other European country and you don't stay there but continue your journey, you might get threatened by deportation to this country. In this case it is absolutely necessary to contact support-groups in your country of arrival as soon as possible – you need support to stop a deportation to another country than Greece.

If you are travelling right now, check this information carefully! Generally speaking: the judgement of the ECHR may be considered radical, so asylum seekers who are leaving Greece can safely apply for asylum again in most EU-countries without being threatened with deportation. This may change again in the future so it is good to document your personal situation with all its problems in Greece (i.e. with photos or videos or documents from hospitals, authorities etc.) to show it later in the country where you decide to stay.

Careful: Even if you have not been fingerprinted in a European or a non-European country you might be sent back to the country, which is close to the border where you have been arrested. For example: If you are arrested in Austria and near the border to Hungary this is considered sufficient proof to send you back to Hungary on the grounds that you have “obviously” entered the one country through the other – even if you didn't. The same goes for other borders: Hungary-Serbia, Italy-Greece etc. These kind of returns/ deportations are based on bilateral Readmission Agreements but often lack legal procedures.

Overview of European countries having stopped deportation to Greece:

Austria
Belgium
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany (deportation-stop until January 2013)
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland
Netherlands
Norway
Sweden
Switzerland
UK

Asylum chances:

Many people now try to figure out where they have the best chance to get a positive result for their asylum applications. This is very difficult to answer generally because it depends a lot on each individual case (situation in your home country, personal reasons etc.) and on whether or not authorities believe that you are telling the truth. At <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat> you can find some statistics that might help you (search: Asylum) – but don't take them too literally. The recognition rates in each country are changing quickly and you need the newest information you can get. On the next pages you will find a list of contacts in some European countries. If you don't find a contact in the country you are looking for or if the contacts are far from the city where you will go check out the list of contacts on w2eu.info. It's more detailed: <http://w2eu.info/contacts.en.html>

Family reunification:

Families might find themselves in a situation where one person went first to a specific country, and his/her family-member has remained behind in another European country - for example the mother in Norway and the underage son in Greece. In that case, you have the possibility to ask for family reunification. If a country registered your asylum application and is reviewing your case, you may try to get close family-members to join you legally.

Be careful: in European law “family members” means: 1. married partners; 2. a minor child of a couple, 3. the father, mother when the refugee is a minor and unmarried. Furthermore, depending on the case and national ruling of the state you want to be united to: 4. spouses in a stable relationship and 5. in cases of minors the guardian who is not the mother or father – but this is much more complicated and needs proves that this relationship is old and stable.

Procedures of family reunification take a lot of time, patience and are quite complicated. Therefore, look for an experienced lawyer who specialises in such cases. You will need support in Greece (for example contact the Greek Council for Refugees (GCR) in Athens: Solomou 25, Exarheia, (0030)210-3800990) and also in the country where you want to get united. You can find advice to good lawyers in different countries via the contacts given at <http://w2eu.info/>.

Have a safe journey!

If you want to apply for asylum it is good to contact people who have some experiences and can give you some ideas on how the system works in the place you are (the European asylum system differs very much from country to country). On the following pages you may find contacts in the listed countries:

ALBANIA – We have no experience with this organization so far! If you can give us a feedback if it was useful or not, we would appreciate (contact@w2eu.info).

Refugee and Migrant Services in Albania / Sherbimet Shqiptare per Refugjate dhe Albania
NGO Directory, 27 October 2011
Address: Rruga "Donika Kastrioti" Nr. 4 Tirana, Albania
Tel: 00355 422 502 06, Fax: 00355 422 284 92
Email: mhereni@yahoo.com

AUSTRIA**Vienna:**

Asyl in Not
Währingerstraße 59/2
1090 Wien
Tel.: 0043-(0)1 408 42 10
www.asyl-in-not.org

Diakonie:
Steinergasse 3, 1170 Wien
Tel.: 0043-(0)1 / 402 67 54

Traiskirchen:

Diakonie
in Traiskirchen next to the train station
Opening hours: every Tuesday and Thursday: 9-16
(registration: 9-14)

Josef-Ferschner-Str. 20/II
2514 Traiskirchen
Tel.: 0043-(0)2252 / 547 26

Linz:

Volkshilfe Oberösterreich
Stockhofstraße 40, 4020 Linz
Tel: 0043-(0)732/603099

BELGIUM

Comité Belge d'Aide aux Réfugiés/
Belgisch Comité voor Hulp aan Vluchtelingen
Rue Defacqzstraat 1 b 10
1000 Bruxelles
Tel 0032-(0)2/537.82.20
Fax 0032-(0)2/537.89.82
www.cbar-bchv.be

BULGARIA

We have no experience with these organizations so far! If you can give us a feedback if it was useful or not, we would appreciate (contact@w2eu.info).

Helsinki Committee
Refugees' and Migrants' Legal Protection Programme
Uzundjovska Street 1, Sofia
Tel./Fax: 00359 2 988 0057, 00359 2 981 3318
E-mail: refunit@bghelsinki.org

Red Cross Bulgaria: Refugee-Migrant Service
James Baucher blvd. 76, Sofia
Tel.: 00359 2 81 64 814; fax: 00359 2 81 64 730
E-mail: lotus@redcross.bg

Caritas Migration Service
9, Oborishte Street, Sofia
Tel.: 00359 (2) 94 41 858 or 00359 (2) 944 18 73
Fax: 00359 (2) 94 61 133
E-mail: communications@caritas-bg.org

DENMARK

Danish Refugee Council
Borgergade 10
1300 København K
Tel: 0045 (0)33 73 50 00
Wednesday 13-15

The Trampoline House
Skyttegade 3, ground floor
DK-2200 Copenhagen N
Denmark
Tel: (0045) 32 20 02 25
Email: info@trampolinehouse.dk
Web: www.trampolinehouse.dk
A user-driven culture house and meeting place for asylum seekers, migrants and Danish citizens. Free legal counselling every Wednesdays from 17-19.

Asylret (Right to Asylum)
Email: info@asylret.dk

Web: www.asylret.dk

Volunteer group working with legal counselling and case handling for rejected asylum seekers.

FRANCE

Forum refugies
Maison du réfugié
326 rue Garibaldi
69007 Lyon
Tel: 0033 (0)472 77 68 02

Cimade Paris et Ile-de-France
46 Boulevard des Batignolles
75017 PARIS (métro Rome ligne 2)
Tel 0033 (0)1 40 08 05 34
Fax 0033 (0)1 40 08 05 27
<http://www.cimade.org/>

Collectif de soutien des exilés du 10ème
c/o MRAP 43 bd Magenta 75010 Paris
0033 (0)1 53 38 99 99
exiles10@rezo.net
<http://www.exiles10.org/>

France Terre D'Asile
4 rue Doudeaucille 75018 Paris
0033 (0)1 53 26 23 80
<http://www.france-terre-asile.org/>

GISTI

3 Villa Marcès 75011 Paris

<http://www.gisti.org/>

gisti@gisti.org
0033 (0)1 43 14 84 8

GERMANY

Berlin:

Flüchtlingsrat Berlin
Georgenkirchstr 69-70
10249 Berlin-Friedrichshain
Tel. (0049) 30-243 44 5762
Fax (0049) 30-243 44 5763
buero@fluechtlingsrat-berlin.de
www.fluechtlingsrat-berlin.de

Frankfurt:

PRO ASYL
Tel.: 0049 (0)69-23 06 88
Fax: 0049 (0)69-23 06 50
Email: info@proasyl.de
Web: www.proasyl.de

Hanau:

Refugee café
0049-(0)6181-184369
ag3f@comlink.org

Hamburg:

Flüchtlingsrat Hamburg
www.fluechtlingsrat-hamburg.de
Tel. 0049(0)40-4315987

Café Exil
Spaldingstr. 41
Tel.: 0049(0)40-2368216
Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 8-13

München:

Bayerischer Flüchtlingsrat
Augsburgerstr.13
Tel: (0049)-(0)89-76 22 34

HUNGARY

Hungary has not stopped all deportations to Greece, but if somebody explicitly says, that she/he does not want to be deported back to Greece, the Immigration Office suspends their asylum procedure for some weeks, and in the end they do not send the person back to Greece. So express clearly that you don't want to go back to Greece. Coming from Greece to Hungary a deportation to Serbia is the highest risk. Hungary deports regularly people who crossed the Hungarian-Serbian border back to Serbia. Serbia then often pushes people directly back to Macedonia.

And there is another problem: Many people try to continue their journey after having been fingerprinted in Hungary. If you have fingerprints in Hungary and continue to another country you can be

sent back to Hungary (for example if the Greek fingerprints have not been found but those from Hungary are in the computer system). So in case you come to another country with fingerprints from Hungary, you should go to one of the addresses named in this leaflet. To stop a deportation to Hungary you will need a lawyer– and it is very difficult without additional assistance of supporters (for example of the named contacts).

Legal advice

Hungarian Helsinki Committee (Magyar Helsinki Bizottság)
Budapest (central office)
Address: 1054 Budapest, Bajcsy-Zsilinszky út 36–38.
Tel/fax: 06 1 321 4323, 06 1 321 4141

Website: www.helsinki.hu

E-mail: helsinki@helsinki.hu

Languages: Hungarian, English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian.

Call first for an appointment!

Social assistance

Menedek Association (Menedék Egyesület)
Budapest (central office)

Address: 1090 Budapest, Erkel utca 13/A, földszint 5.

Tel: 06 1 411 1710, 06 1 411 1711, 06 20 430 9919 • Fax: 06 1 411 1711

Website: www.menedek.hu

E-mail: menedek@menedek.hu

ITALY

We have not heard of recent deportations from Italy back to Greece of people who have managed to reach the big cities. But Italy deports regularly people back who are caught inside the ferryboats coming from Patras or Igoumenitsa or inside the port area of the Italian ports.

And there is another problem (similar to Hungary): Many people try to continue their journey after having been fingerprinted in Italy. If you have fingerprints in Italy and continue to another country you can be sent back to Italy (for example if the Greek fingerprints have not been found but those from Italy are inside the computer system). So in case you come to another country with fingerprints from Italy, you should go to one of the contacts named in this leaflet. To stop a deportation to Italy you will need a lawyer – and it is very difficult without additional assistance of supporters (for example of the named contacts).

Rome:

Comunità di Sant'Egidio Genti di pace Sportello socio-legale
Via Dandolo 10
Email: gentidipace@santegidio.org

ARCI Nuova associazione - Antiracism and Immigration
Via dei Montai di Peitralata 16, Rome
Tel. 06 41795048, fax 06 41609234, immigrazione@arci.it

Associazione progetto diritti
Via Ettore Giovenale, 79
Tel. 06 298777

Venezia:

Razzismo Stop Venezia
Via Fratelli bandiera 45
30175 Marghera (Ve)
E-mail: razzismostop_v@globalproject.info

NETHERLANDS

Dutch Council for Refugees
Surinameplein 122
Postbus 2894, 1000 CW Amsterdam
T 0031 (020) 346 7266
F 0031 (020) 617 81 55
asielprocedure@vluchtelingenwerk.nl
www.vluchtelingenwerk.nl

NORWAY

Norwegian Organisation for Asylum Seekers (NOAS)
Pb. 8893 Youngstorget
0028 Oslo, Norway
Tel: 0047 22 36 56 60
Fax: 0047 22 36 56 61
e-mail: noas@noas.org
www.noas.org

SERBIA

We have no experience with these organizations so far! If you can give us a feedback if it was useful or not, we would appreciate (contact@w2eu.info).

Asylum Protection Center/ Centar za zaštitu i pomoć tražiocima azila
14 Sime Igumanova St., Belgrade
Tel/Fax: 00381 11 2457 376; 00381 11 3085 259
Mob: 00381 63 7047 080
e-mail: rados.djurovic@apc-cza.org
web: www.apc-cza.org;

Belgrade Center for Human Rights
Beogradska 54, Belgrade
Phone/Fax: 00381 (11) 3085 328
Mob: +381648246508
www.azil.rs
http://www.azil.rs/doc/asylum_seeker_info/english.pdf (info on asylum)

SWEDEN

Gothenburg (Göteborg):

E-mail: Goteborg@ingenillegal.org or momo@ingenillegal.org
Tel: 0046 (0)704-37 75 24
<http://www.ingenillegal.org/>

Stockholm:

E-mail: stockholm@ingenillegal.org
Tel: 0046 (0)762 - 44 33 12
<http://www.ingenillegal.org/>

Uppsala:

E-mail: uppsala@ingenillegal.org
Tel: 0046 (0)73 - 95 96 150
<http://www.ingenillegal.org/>

Malmö:

E-mail: asylgruppenimalmo@gmail.com
Tel: 0046 (0)736 59 05 73
<http://asylgruppenimalmo.org/>

Lund:

E-mail: asylgruppenlund@gmail.com
Tel: 0046 (0)765635707
<http://asylgruppenlund.webs.com/>

The Swedish Network of Asylum and Refugee Support Groups (FARR):

Has local groups in several towns.
Phone: 0046 (0)225-147 77
E-mail: info@farr.se
www.farr.se

SWITZERLAND

Schweizerische Flüchtlingshilfe
Weyermannsstrasse 10
3008 Bern
Tel.: 0041 (0)31 370 75 75

mail to: info@fluechtlingshilfe.ch
www.fluechtlingshilfe.ch

Solidarité sans frontières
Neuengasse 8
3011 Bern
Tel. 0041-(0)31 311 07 70
Fax: 0041-(0)31 311 07 75
Mail: secretariat@sosf.ch

UK

London:

Hackney Migrants Centre
Spensley Walk (near Clissold Park, off Stoke Newington Church
Street), Hackney N16 9ES
Tel. 0044 (0)7504 332 706
Open: Wednesdays 12.30-15:30

Refugee Action
240A Clapham Road
London SW9 OPZ
Tel: 0044 (0) 20 7735 5361
Fax: 0044 (0) 20 7587 3676
Web: www.refugee-action.org.uk

Refugee Council
240-260 Ferndale Road
London SW9 8BB
Tel: 0044 (0) 20 7346 6709
Fax: 0044 (0) 20 7346 6760

Email: info@refugeecouncil.org.uk
Web: www.refugeecouncil.org.uk

Manchester:

Manchester Refugee Support Network
121 Princess Road
Moss Side
Manchester M14 4RB
Tel: 0161 232 7420

Liverpool:

Refugee Action
64 Mount Pleasant
Liverpool L3 5SD
Tel: 0151 702 6300

Glasgow:

Glasgow Unity Centre
Open Monday-Friday 10-17.30
30 Ibrox St, Glasgow, G51 1AQ
Their emergency number is: 0141 427 7992

Bristol:

Refugee Action
9 Hide Market
St. Philips, Bristol BS2 0BH
Tel: 0117 941 5960

Oxford:

Asylum Welcome
276a Cowley Road (Behind St Mary and John's Church), Oxford
Tel: 01865 722 082

GREECE

Athens:

Greek Council for Refugees (GCR)
GCR is a Greek Non Governmental Organization founded to support refugees and asylum seekers in Greece. GCR offers legal advice, social services and can help to get access to reception centres (only for people who have applied for asylum in Greece).
Opening hours: every morning before 9 to get an appointment.
Solomou 25, Exarheia (near Omonia)
Tel: (0030) 210-3800990
<http://www.gcr.gr/en>

Ecumenical Refugee Programme
It provides legal assistance to refugees and asylum seekers.
Iridanou 20, first floor (close to train station: Megaro Musikis or Evangelismos)
Tel: (0030) 210-72.95.926
Mondays 11-16 & Wednesdays-Fridays 10-14

AITIMA
Legal and social support for asylum seekers and refugees.
Meidani Street 13-15 (near Singrou Fix train station)
Tel: (0030) 210-92.41.677

E-mail: aitima@freemail.gr
<http://www.aitima.gr/?q=en/en/home>

DIKTIO - Network of Social Support to Immigrants and Refugees
It provides information on legal/ social needs (every afternoon from 5pm-9pm), free lessons of Greek language (Mo-Fr 6pm-8pm) and computer. For people who have or don't have papers.
Tsamadou 13, Exarheia, Tel. 210-3813928
<http://migrant.diktio.org/>

Group of lawyers for the rights of migrants and refugees
Legal counselling for migrants and refugees in all matters relating to their legal status. Every Monday and Wednesday from 17-19. For people who have or don't have papers.
Spiridonos Trikoupi 21, Exarheia - Email:
omadadikigorwn@lists.riseup.net
<http://omadadikigorwnenglish.blogspot.com/>

For free medical care contact:

PRAKSIS
Peoniou Street 5 & Aharnon Str. (near by Platia Victoria)
Tel.: 210-82.13.704 and Fax: 210-82.13.713
Monday-Friday 9-17
e-mail: info@praksis.gr - www.praksis.gr

Doctors of the World
Sapfous Street 12 (near Omonia)
Tel: 210-3213485
e-mail: info@mdmgreece.gr
<http://www.mdmgreece.gr/en>

Babel Day Centre

For psychological and psychiatric support for migrants and refugees with interpreters speaking your language.

It opens daily from 9am to 5pm – on Tuesday and Thursday it remains open until 8pm.

Mythimnis 27b (near Platia Amerikis) – Athens

E-mail: babel@syn-eirmos.gr

http://babel.actorsnet.gr/babel/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=45&Itemid=225

Tel: 210 – 86.16.280 or 210 – 8616102 or 210 - 8616266

For finding lost family members in all the world contact the offices of the Red Cross:

Greek Red Cross

Sector of Tracing People

3rd September Street 21, Athens

Tel: 210-52.42.194 or 210-5230043

Fax: 210-5237 700

e-mail: tracingstaff@redcross.gr

The information on this leaflet may have changed. Although we try to update it regularly, you should contact the local NGOs, lawyers or support-groups listed to be sure about what to expect. If on your journey you notice any changes that might be important for others, please inform us: contact@w2eu.info

Welcome to Europe is an antiracist network from Europe. We welcome all travellers on their difficult way to Europe. We provide information that can be useful on the journey to and through Europe, and want to give access to counselling and useful contacts in different European countries as well as a basic overview over the current laws and regulations concerning refugees and migrants.

Many inhuman forces are at work at the outer borders of Europe: Refusal of entry, imprisonment and deportation. Nevertheless and every day, people challenge the borders and the European anti-migration systems. Welcome To Europe wants to support all those on their way, seeking refuge or simply a better life.

This leaflet provides first contact information for people travelling via Greece to Europe. More information can be found at our webguide at: <http://w2eu.info>.

„I can see clearly now what Europe looks like, that it sends its armies to fight us at the sea and puts us in awful prisons. Together we have to start a second journey to another safe place that might exist in the future.” (Eritrean woman, arriving on the island of Lesbos)

We want to wish all those on their way a good and safe journey. Because freedom of movement is everybody’s right!