

Part I: Executive Committee Summary

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<p>(a) Context: Greece being a member state of the European Union, it is bound by the provisions of the Amsterdam Treaty to participate in the harmonisation of the asylum system within the EU area.</p> <p>Theme 1- <i>quality asylum in a uniting Europe</i></p> <p>Theme 2 - <i>Europe's support to UNHCR and refugees worldwide</i></p>	<p>Theme 1- <i>quality asylum in a uniting Europe</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR in Greece will seek to ensure that the principle and institution of asylum is upheld in a manner that meets international standards in terms of legislation and practice, ensuring that important weaknesses in the current asylum system in Greece are addressed. • UNHCR will monitor, intervene and advocate, vis à vis the authorities, so that Greece contributes in upholding and safeguarding principles of international protection within the EU harmonisation process. <p>Theme 2 – <i>Europe's support to UNHCR and refugees worldwide</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To seek support from Greece commensurate to its ability as a developed country that is a State Party to the 1951 Geneva Convention. • To enhance the public's understanding of the protection needs of refugees and raise the public profile of UNHCR • To encourage the private sector to become actively engaged by financially supporting UNHCR's global programme.
<p>(b) Main Programme Goals</p> <p><i>Theme 1: quality asylum within the EU asylum harmonisation process :</i></p> <p><i>Principal Objectives and related Outputs for Theme 1:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons in need of international protection will have access to the territories of the EU. • States will develop and gradually harmonise asylum systems in conformity with international standards. • Public opinion will be receptive to the protection needs of refugees and supportive of their integration efforts. • Enabling asylum-seekers to access Greek territory, requires the inclusion of adequate protection safeguards in measures to combat illegal migration. • For this objective, the main outputs will be the training of police authorities to differentiate treatment of asylum-seekers and migrants, as well as advocacy for a political decision and administrative instructions to exclude asylum-seekers from deterrence measures aimed at illegal immigration. • Asylum-seekers have access to procedures in which their claims are heard fairly and promptly. • Main outputs are: an asylum procedure accessible to all who request asylum, an understanding of basic refugee law by asylum officials, a sufficient number of specialised and trained staff dedicated to the RSD procedure,

Main Programme Goals for theme 2 :
Europe's support to UNHCR and refugees worldwide

Principal Objectives and related Outputs for Theme 2:

- an independent appeals process, institutionalised legal aid available to asylum seekers.
- Treatment of asylum-seekers in respect to reception conditions, detention and the socio-economic rights of refugees are in accordance with international standards.
- UNHCR, as the agency responsible for refugee protection, gets a higher profile, through a regular and outspoken presence in the media and through an increased range of support groups.
- The public at large understands the difference between economic migrants and refugees. A related output will be an enhanced awareness of the 1951 Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees as the cornerstone of refugee protection.
- Xenophobic trends diminish in favour of increased tolerance. This will be sought by enhancing public appreciation of society's enrichment through multiculturalism and sensitising public opinion to perceive xenophobia as a scourge to society.

Theme 2:

- European governments, regional organisations and private individuals/corporations will increase their financial support to UNHCR.
- The European people will give more, and better informed, support to UNHCR and to refugee problems.
- States will actively uphold UNHCR's protection concerns and actively seek solutions to refugee problems internationally.
- Greece will contribute more to UNHCR on a level commensurate to its status as an OECD Member State with a pledge to maintain the sustainability of its unearmarked contribution.
- Contributions from the private sector will be secured through a continued positive disposition towards UNHCR's work, the establishment of a regular mechanism for long term donor support and increase of income level by 20% over 2001.
- UNHCR's image is recognised, respected and widely viewed as relevant. The Greek public will recognise UNHCR's name and logo and will associate it with a reliable and respectable humanitarian organisation.
- The general public is better educated on global refugee issues and the protection needs of refugees. The public will respond positively to UNHCR's protection work with increased interest shown by the media and public in

	<p>global as well as local refugee issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• European States will lobby European Governments, the European Commission and the European Parliament to ensure that legislative measures adopted concerning refugees and asylum-seekers are consistent with UNHCR standards and recommendations. In Greece, the Greek delegates to EU asylum/migration fora will be familiar with UNHCR positions and will support them or, as a minimum, not actively oppose them.
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