

EN

P-001027/2021

Answer given by Ms Johansson
on behalf of the European Commission
(31.3.2021)

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) play a key role in providing significant support and a range of services to migrants, asylum applicants and refugees, including medical care, education, child care, protection and legal services, as well as social integration activities. Often with EU financial assistance, NGOs also provide vital services, support and assistance to many migrants on the Greek islands, and play a crucial role in helping victims of fundamental rights violations, notably the most vulnerable ones. Transparency is key in this context.

The Commission is aware of the new Greek legislation on NGOs, and has called upon the Greek authorities to ensure that registration requirements remain non-discriminatory, necessary, objectively justified, and proportionate to the aims of transparency and of good governance.

The Commission has taken note of the fact that both the new ministerial decision regulating the operation of reception sites in the mainland and the existing ministerial decision regulating the operation of Reception and Identification Centres on the islands contain a confidentiality clause. It provides that all staff working in the centres must preserve the confidentiality of all personal data, information and material that was disclosed to them during the performance of their duties. Both provisions apply to everyone working in the centres, including staff from the Greek authorities, NGOs and international organisations.

The Commission continues to monitor the implementation of the legal framework to ensure its compatibility with EU law and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.