Irregular migration and the management of the EU’s Southern Maritime Borders: The Case of the Greek Islands

Prof. Anna Triandafyllidou, Dr. Thanos Maroukis
Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>1st</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apprehended at the sea borders</td>
<td>4,974</td>
<td>9,049</td>
<td>9,240</td>
<td>5,332</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apprehended at the land borders</td>
<td>37,867</td>
<td>53,556</td>
<td>39,595</td>
<td>24,668</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apprehended in the mainland</td>
<td>23,510</td>
<td>32,634</td>
<td>63,529</td>
<td>27,623</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>66,351</td>
<td>95,239</td>
<td>112,364</td>
<td>57,623</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Foreigners arrested on the Greek borders 2005-2008
The Aegean route
Main points

- The main nationalities
- The organisation of the trip
- Arrival at the islands, arrest and procedures
- The Readmission agreement between Turkey and Greece
- Human Rights issues
- Asylum seeking procedures
- What to do?
What does the Greek case suggest as regards the management of the EU southern maritime borders

- to improve cooperation with the transit country authorities so as to prevent the extent possible migrants from attempting to cross the EU borders.
- to improve cooperation and exchange of experience and specialized knowledge as well as technical means among the southern EU member states,
- to improve cooperation with northern and western EU member states that are often the final destinations of irregular migrants, with a view to dismantling the transnational smugglers’ networks involved,
- to put pressure and simultaneously offer motives (like the revisiting of the EU accession of Turkey) to transit countries with a view to ensuring the human treatment and the respect of the human rights of irregular migrants.
- to ensure that irregular migrants that may seek asylum are given the possibility to do so when they reach the territory of an EU country and they are not deported back to the transit country in violation of the non-refoulement principle.

Towards this end, the Dublin II European Council Regulation that puts insurmountable pressure to the bordering countries of the EU should be modified if not abandoned.