

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

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Foreigners arrested on the Greek borders 2005-2008

	2005	2006	2007	2008 1st semester
Apprehended at the sea borders	4,974	9,049	9,240	5,332
Apprehended at the land borders	37,867	53,556	39,595	24,668
Apprehended in the mainland	23,510	32,634	63,529	27,623
Total	66,351	95,239	112,364	57,623

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 to 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.