The Greek Council of State annuls the designation of Türkiye as a 'safe third country'

On 21 March 2025, the Greek Council of State annulled the Joint Ministerial Decision designating Türkiye as a safe third country for asylum seekers originating from Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Among others, the Council of State ruled that "from the case file accompanying the Joint Ministerial Decision 538595/12.12.2023 issued by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Migration and Asylum, titled ‘Designation of third countries as safe and compilation of a national list pursuant to Article 91 of Law 4939/2022, and particularly from the recommendation of the Director of the Asylum Service, it does not emerge that the criteria set out in Article 91 of Law 4939/2022 (Article 38 of Directive 2013/32/EU) were duly assessed for the designation of Türkiye as a safe third country for the aforementioned categories of foreign nationals”. The Court, also, unanimously ruled that the individual decisions of the Independent Appeals Committees, by which the applications for international protection by Afghan nationals were rejected, on the grounds that they entered Greece from Türkiye, which was considered a safe third country, must be annulled.

More information is available here.

Source(s)

- Greek Council of State | Συμβούλιο της Επικρατείας (21 March, 2025), Ανακοίνωση του Προέδρου του Σ.τ.Ε. σχετικά με το αποτέλεσμα της διάσκεψης επί υποθέσεων, οι οποίες συζητήθηκαν στην Ολομέλεια στις 7 Φεβρουαρίου 2025 και αφορούν τον χαρακτηρισμό της Τουρκίας ως ασφαλούς τρίτης χώρας [Announcement by the President of the Council of State regarding the outcome of the conference on matters discussed in the Plenary on February 7, 2025 and concerning the designation of Turkey as a safe third country], https://www.adjustice.gr/webcenter/portal/ste/pageste/epikairotita/anakoinwseis-proedrou?centerWidth=65%25&contentID=SNEWS-TEMPLATE1742568296785&leftWidth=0%25&rigthWidth=35%25&showFooter=false&sho state=l2g0jc2aq_78&_afrLoop=2935932490863803#!%40%40%3F_afrLoop%3D2935932 TEMPLATE1742568296785%26leftWidth%3D0%2525%26rigthWidth%3D35%2525%26sho state%3Dt0egmd0k5_64

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For more information, please contact: ias@euaa.europa.eu

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