Bill to reform the return framework and tackle irregular migration is approved

The plenary session of the Greek Parliament approved the bill "Reform of the framework and procedures for the return of third-country nationals - Other regulations of the Ministry of Immigration and Asylum". The stated goals of the new framework are to address irregular migration, prevent the abuse of the asylum system, and facilitate the return of third-country nationals.

The criminalization of illegal stay in the country is introduced with a prison sentence of 2 to 5 years and a minimum fine of 5,000 euros. The possibility of legalization through long-term illegal residence of 7 years is abolished and subsequent applications for international protection are limited with the aim of preventing abusive practices. The possibility of administrative detention for up to 24 months is provided for, without suspensive effect appealing the decision, while the deadline for voluntary departure is shortened to 14 days with the possibility of electronic surveillance.

The concept of "country of return" is expanded and the absconding risk criteria are updated, a mandatory reason for entry ban is established in case of risk to public order and security, while at the same time its duration is extended to up to ten years.

Source(s)

- Ministry of Migration and Asylum | Υπουργείο Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου (3 September, 2025), Υπερψηφίστηκε το νομοσχέδιο του Υπουργείου Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου για την αναμόρφωση του πλαισίου επιστροφών και την αντιμετώπιση της παράνομης μετανάστευσης [The bill of the Ministry of Immigration and Asylum to reform the return framework and tackle illegal immigration was voted in favor], https://migration.gov.gr/yperpsifistike-to-nomoschedio-toy-ypoyrgeioy-metanasteysis-kai-asyloy-gia-tin-anamorfosi-toy-plaisioy-epistrofon-kai-tin-antimetopisi-tis-paranomis-metanasteysis/

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