Minister meets with "core group" countries to discuss return hubs, securing EU's external borders and accelerating return procedures

In September 2026, the Minister of Migration and Asylum participated in the Munich Conference on Migration Policy. On the sidelines, he met with the ministers of the five "core group" countries to discuss the next steps for securing the EU's external borders, the effectiveness of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, and the acceleration of return procedures.

The Greek minister presented to his counterparts the outline of an integrated crisis management mechanism at the borders to respond to cases of instrumentalisation of migration. The mechanism is an initiative of the Greek Prime Minister, for which the minister asked for the support of Member States.

At the same time, special emphasis was placed on the need to adopt innovative solutions to enhance returns. The Greek minister highlighted the importance of creating regional return hubs in third countries, as a key pillar for disrupting smuggling networks, relieving frontline Member States of the disproportionate migratory pressure and generally restoring the credibility of European asylum policy. He highlighted that achieving sustainable returns requires both enhanced assistance from Frontex and the strategic use of visas as a means of putting pressure on countries of origin.

More information is available here.

Source(s)

- Ministry of Migration and Asylum | Υπουργείο Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου (27 September, 2026), Συμμετοχή του Υπουργού Μετανάστευσης και Ασύλου, Θάνου Πλεύρη, στη Διάσκεψη του Μονάχου και στη Σύνοδο των «5» του Core Group [Participation of the Minister of Immigration and Asylum, Thanos Plevris, in the Munich Conference and the "5" Core Group Summit], https://migration.gov.gr/en/symmetochi-toy-ypoyrgoy-metanasteysis-kai-asyloy-thanoy-pleyri-sti-diaskepsi-toy-monachoy-kai-sti-synodo-ton-5-toy-core-group/

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