

EDIÇÃO DA REPRESENTAÇÃO DA COMISSÃO EUROPEIA EM PORTUGAL

## **COMUNICADO DE IMPRENSA**

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- Commissioner Avramopoulos and Minister Asselborn in Athens: First Relocation Flight from Greece

  On Wednesday 4 November, Migration and Home Affairs Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos and Luxembourg Minister for Foreign Affairs Jean Asselborn will travel to Greece. Together with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, European Parliament President Martin Schulz and Greek Alternate Minister of Interior and Administrative Reconstruction responsible for Migration Policy Ioannis Mouzalas they will meet with the first group of asylum seekers to benefit from the EU's relocation scheme from Greece. Thirty asylum seekers will travel by plane from the Athens International Airport to have their applications processed in Luxembourg. A full press release is available here.
- Western Balkans Migration Route: European Commission supports UNHCR with resources for 200,000 refugees The European Commission today unlocks additional financial support for the UN's Refugee agency, UNHCR, providing €2 million to meet the basic needs of vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers currently in the Western Balkans. This humanitarian aid will enable the UNHCR to provide 200,000 refugees with warm clothes for the winter and temporary shelter and protection at reception sites in the region. In 2015, the Commissionis providing humanitarian aid amounting to over €8.74 million in the Western Balkans. This funding for the UNHCR is part of the €17 million aid package announced on 3 October to help Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia cope with the refugee influx. Following progress made after the first video conference of the Western Balkans Route contact points, appointed after the 25 October Leaders' Meeting, the next video conference will take place on 4 November. The video conference will be an opportunity to take stock of the state of play of the operational measures adopted in the past week.
- European Commission steps up humanitarian aid to Syria The European Commission will give €62 million in humanitarian aid to support Syrians displaced by the conflict inside the country. The funding allocation was

announced today by European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management, Christos **Stylianides**, who is concluding his visit to Jordan and Lebanon. The new funding comes at a critical moment with a worsening security situation in the country and will help cover winterisation and basic needs of refugees and host communities, such as health care, clean water, shelter, rent and education. The new funding for Syria follows the recent announcements of €43 million for Lebanon and €28 million to Jordan, made by the Commissioner to the respective national authorities over 1-3 November. All in all €133 million in additional humanitarian aid in 2015 will go to the three respective countries. A press release is available here as well as audiovisual material.

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