Summary of key trends observed

- In September, 7,606 persons in mixed movements arrived in the region, which is 11% more than in August (6,873). With this increase, September is the month with the second highest numbers of new arrivals in 2020. This reflects the usual seasonal trends.

- This month, only 154 persons filed an asylum application (compared to 99 in August). Only 10% of the expressed intentions to seek asylum were formalized into actual asylum claims. September marked an increase of asylum applications compared to August, nevertheless this trend would have to be confirmed in October. Overall, since January 2020, 4,081 asylum applications have been lodged in the region.

- In September, 9 new positive first-instance decisions (5 refugee status and 4 subsidiary protection status) were handed. In 2020, 21 persons have been granted refugee status and 37 persons subsidiary protection status, while 132 applications were rejected. In addition, 2,152 submissions were closed after the applicants absconded the asylum procedure. In September, the authorities in the SEE region conducted 38 interviews (total of 189 for 2020). This year the average number of interviews conducted monthly is 21, which is lower in comparison with the 2019 average (34.5 per month).

- At the end of September, 741 decisions were still pending (0.26% more than in August (739)).

- In 2020, 12% (483) of all applications have been submitted by women and 21% (840) by children, including 112 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) (13.3% of the children in total). The trends in this summer period also indicate a higher percentage of families among new arrivals than in the first half of 2020.