



**Arrivals/Departure:** Arrival numbers to the Greek Islands decreased over the weekend following a regular arrival rate on Friday, 22 January. With the end of the two-day ferry strike, people were able to depart from the islands while the border with the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia remained opened with episodic closures.

**Bottlenecks:** At the border crossing between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 29 people were returned to the Greek border for possessing false documents, no documents at all, or for being of other nationalities than Afghan, Iraqi or Syrian; none opted to apply for asylum in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Similarly, 23 people were returned from Serbia to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In Slovenia, 15 people were returned to Croatia as they intended to seek asylum in countries other than Germany or Austria. Slovenian authorities provided them with a document which specified the reason of return as "lack of valid travel documents" or "lack of visa or resident permit" to their countries of destination. At the Šentilj facility, 55 people

were returned by Austrian authorities to Slovenia as they intended to seek asylum in countries other than Germany or Austria. In Serbia, at Sid, hundreds of people were not permitted to board trains to Croatia as they possessed false documents, no documents at all, or for being of other nationalities than Afghan, Iraqi or Syrian.

**Condition of People:** People arriving to the Greek shores reported to UNHCR that the smuggling rates decreased by half in recent days. On the Islands of Chios, Samos and Kalymnos, people of North African nationality continue to be detained. Some irregular crossing was observed through the Italian-Slovenian border.

**Deaths at Sea:** Two shipwrecks occurred on 22 January; one near Kalymnos and another near Faramakonissi. According to UNHCR, 42 people died and many remain missing; while 26 survivors were transferred to Kalymnos and 41 to Leros. Since the beginning of the year, 123 people who departed Turkey by boat lost their lives attempting to reach the Greek islands.



### Critical Developments

On 24 January, in Greece, following two deadly shipwrecks, hundreds of people protested against the security fence located along the land border with Turkey, demanding safe routes. On 24 January, the EU Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris Avramopoulos, denied reports that Greece may be expelled from the Schengen area if more effective action on managing the flow of people through its borders is not taken. Foreign Minister, Nikos Kotzias, requested support from Frontex to return people to Turkey as they were ineligible for asylum in Europe such as those of North African nationality.

On 22 January, in a meeting between Slovenian and Hungarian officials, agreement was reached regarding the need to uphold the Schengen mechanism.

On 25 January, at the border crossing between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of

Macedonia, according to Greek media, a man was killed and two suffered injuries due to clashes. UNHCR is following up to obtain more information.

Between 21-23 January, in Greece, UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Volker Türk, visited Eidomeni, Athens, and Lesvos. He met with Greek authorities, representatives of the European Commission and of NGOs.

### Weather Headlines

- Cold conditions across the region will moderate through the coming days with temperatures returning near to or slightly above average.
- A thaw of lying snow across the north of the region may lead to saturated and muddy conditions under foot.
- Strong winds in the Aegean will continue to ease through the early part of this week.



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### Average Daily Arrivals and Trends Greece

4 - 10 January  
**1,831**  
-23% from previous week



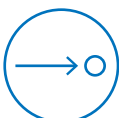
11 - 17 January  
**1,458**  
-20% from previous week



18 - 24 January  
**2,004**  
37% from previous week



Monthly Average Daily Arrival  
January (as of 24 Jan)  
**1,805**  
-46% from previous month

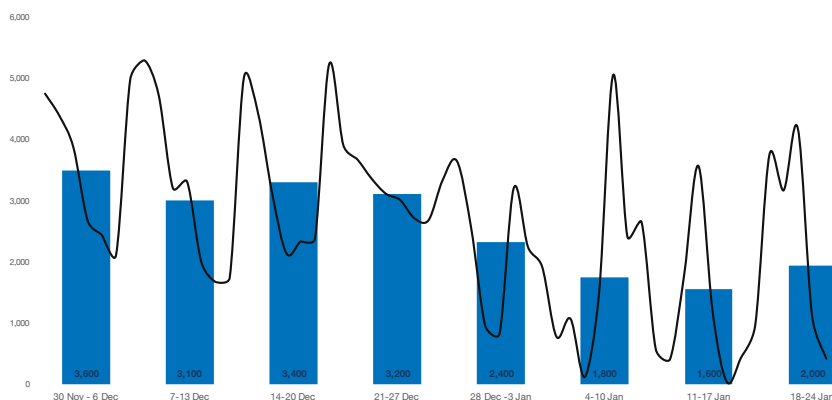


### Estimated Arrivals per Country Yesterday



### Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 30 November to 21 January

\*The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia  
(please note that the fYRoM abbreviation is used only for design purposes)





## Weather conditions forecast for Greece and Countries of Onward Movements

Key locations crossed by refugees



## Weather Assessment

- Below average temperatures across SE Europe will continue to recover to near or slightly above average through this week. Some light snow is possible across Croatia and Serbia on Monday night and Tuesday, but is not expected to produce significant accumulations. Where snow is lying across the northern half of the region, the thaw that follows through this week may lead to the soil becoming saturated and muddy.
- Strong to gale force northerly winds that affected the Aegean Sea through the weekend have eased across the northern Aegean. Further south, this is expected through by midweek. Analysis of previous events would suggest that these lighter winds will likely lead to a gradual increase in arrivals to the Greek Islands.



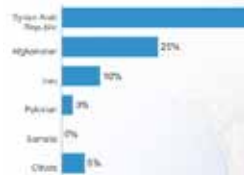
## Annex 1

### Key Figures from the Portal

Increasing numbers of refugees and migrants take their chances aboard unseaworthy boats and dinghies in a desperate bid to reach Europe. The vast majority of those attempting this dangerous crossing are in need of international protection, fleeing war, violence and persecution in their country of origin. Every year these movements continue to exact a devastating toll on human life.

#### Top-10 nationalities of Mediterranean sea arrivals

Top-10 nationalities represent **100%** of the sea arrivals based on arrivals since 1 Jan 2015



#### Comparison of monthly Mediterranean sea arrivals



**21,958** arrivals by sea in 2016

856,723 arrivals by sea in 2015

**91%** of arrivals come from the world's top 10 refugee-producing countries



#### Demographics based on arrivals since 1 Jan 2015



\*Data based on UNHCR's data (2015)

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

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#### Following the humanitarian crisis in Europe: Estimated daily arrivals





## Annex 2

### Refugee/Migrant Onward Movement Map

