

Readmission activities Greece - Turkey



Return Operations Sector
European Centre for Returns

Introduction

- Readmission operations GR-TR were carried out under the leadership of Greece
- Part of the EU/TR Joint Statement(18th March 2016)and under EU Coordination
- The implementation of readmission activities part of the JO Poseidon
- Cooperation: Greek authorities, Member States and Frontex

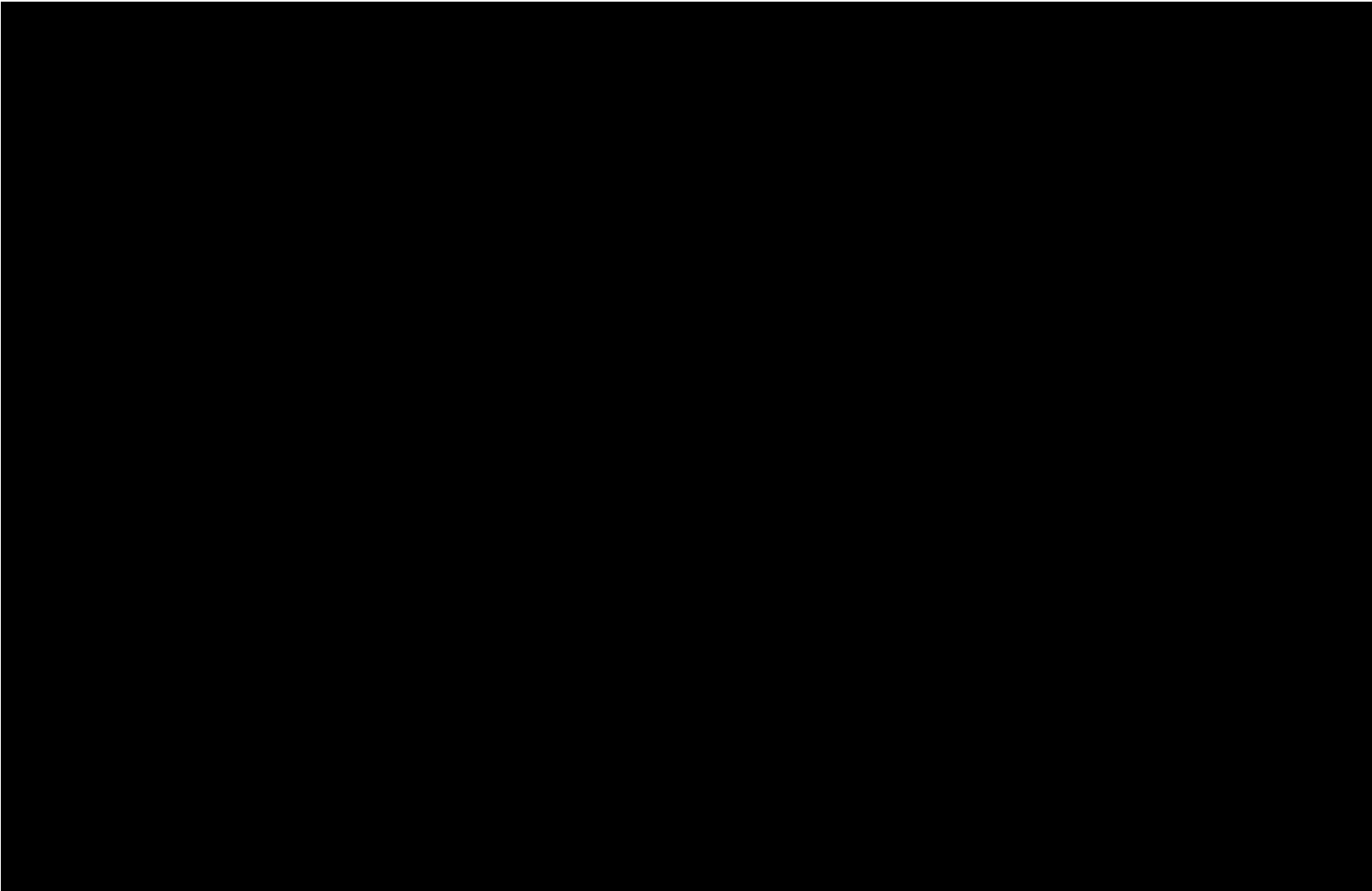
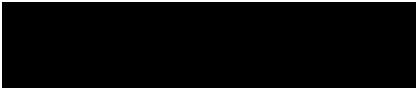
Tasks, roles and responsibilities

- All persons readmitted have been subject to **individual decisions** taken by Greece in full accordance with EU and international law
- Greece provided the necessary **security measures** and maintenance of public order during the entire readmission operation
- Greece provided relevant **monitoring** of the operation in line with EU Directive 2008/115/EC
- **Medical support** during the entire readmission operation

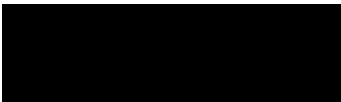
Tasks, roles and responsibilities

- The **use of coercive measures** according to Greek national law;
- **Weapons prohibited** during entire readmission operation;
- The EU Directive 2003/110/EC and the Council Decision 2004/573 applied for the use of force by escort officers during the entire readmission operation;
- The **Code of Conduct** for Joint Return Operations coordinated by FRONTEX applied during entire readmission operation;
- Frontex with the support of MS provided **human resources and logistical support**: escort officers, charter flights, ferry boats and busses

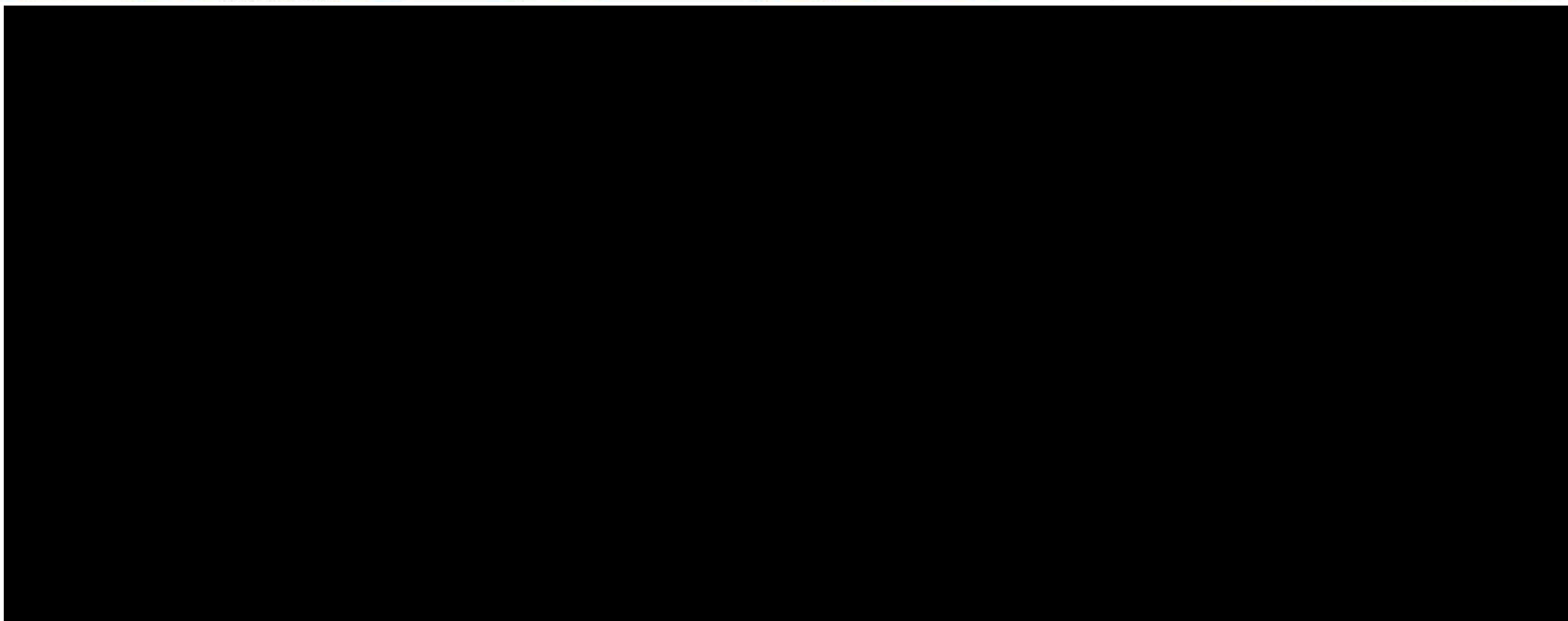
Readmissions by sea



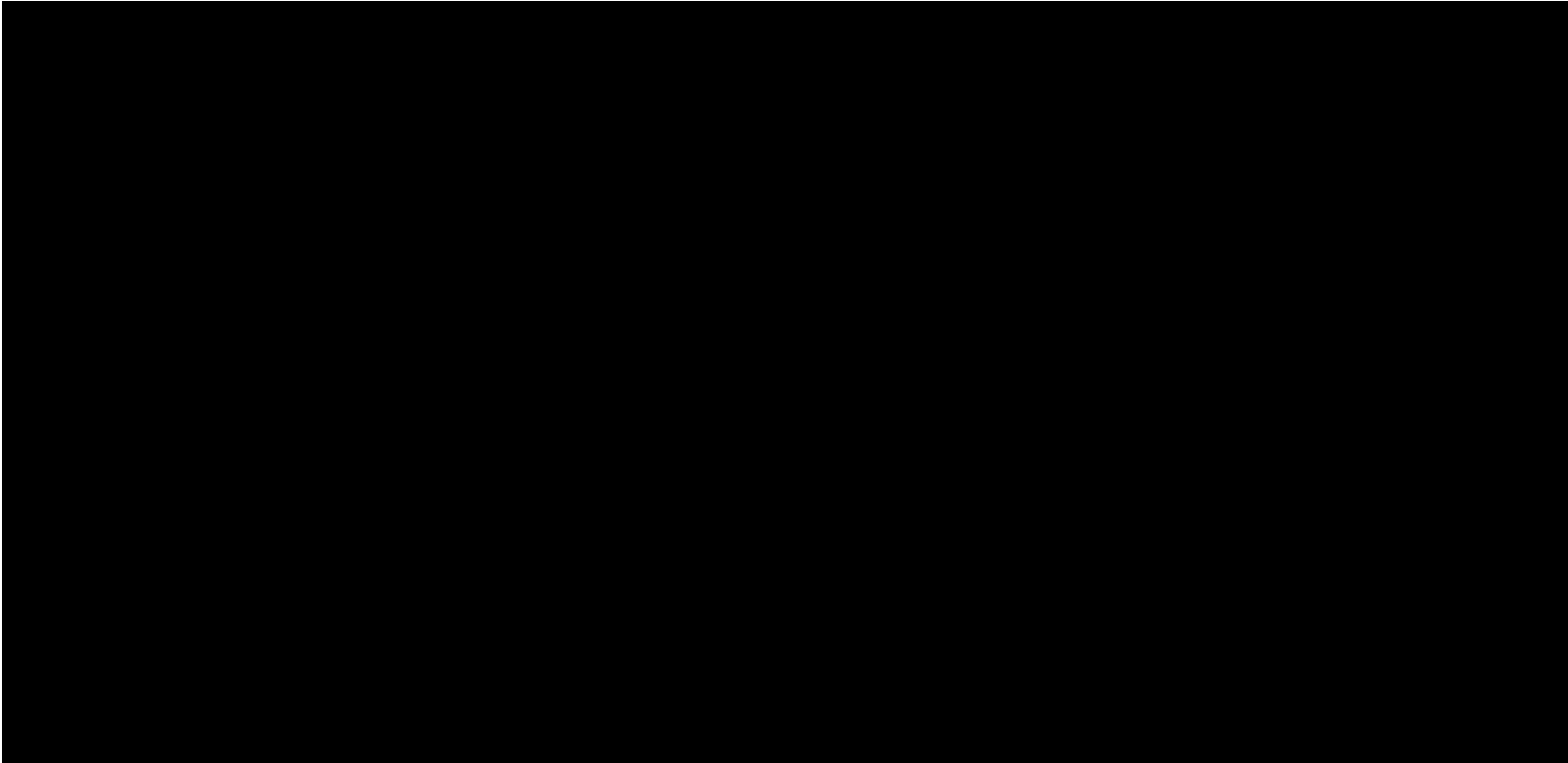
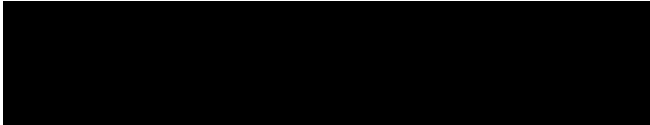
Readmissions by sea



Readmissions by air [REDACTED]



Readmissions by air



Statistics 2016-2019

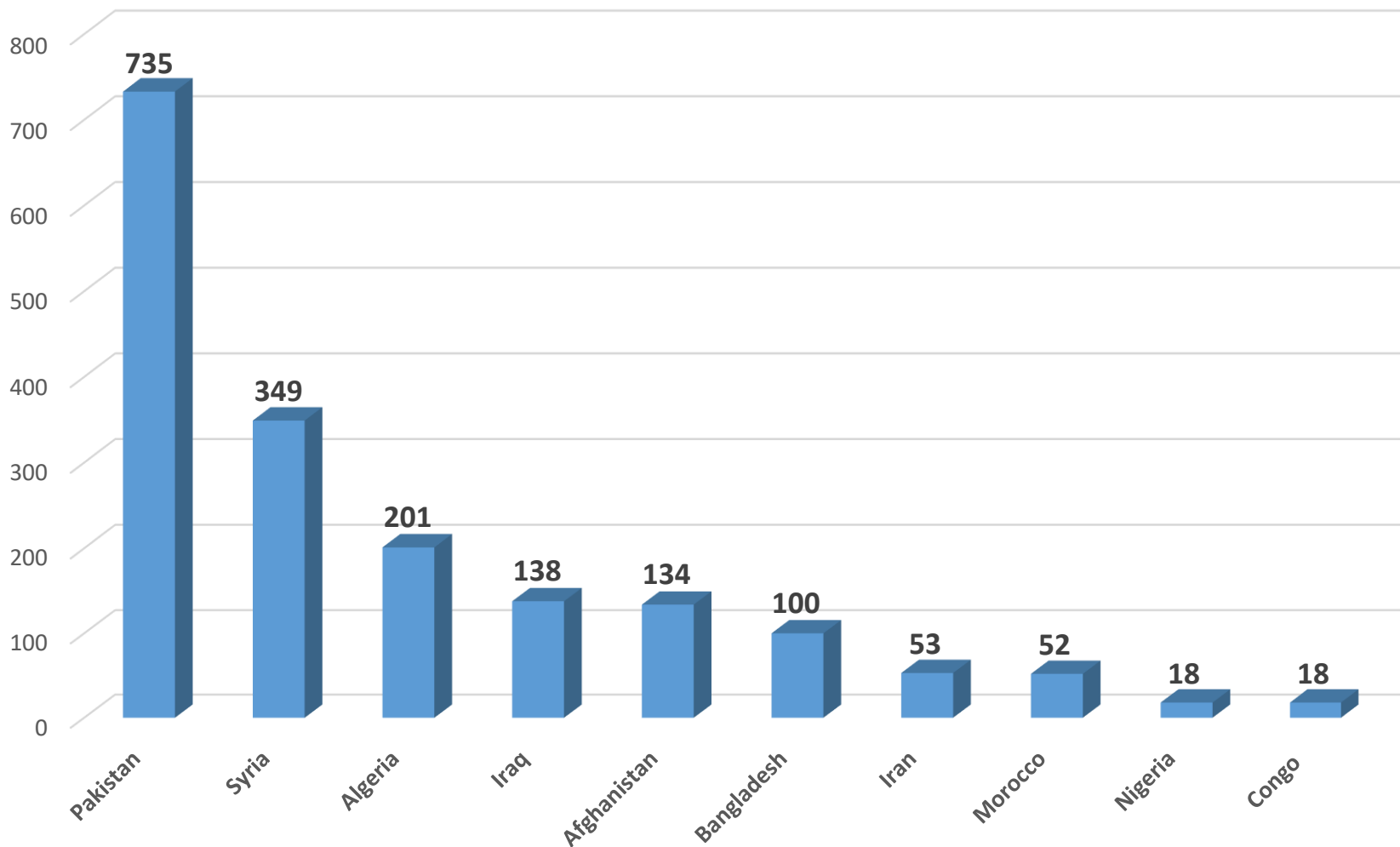
Since the start of readmissions operations (01.04.2016), **143 Readmission Operations** were carried out (by sea: **104** and by air: **39**). **1969** third-country nationals were readmitted from Greece to Turkey (by sea: 1620 and by air: 347).

In **2019**, 13 readmission operations have been organized so far, 12 by sea from [REDACTED] and 1 by air from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] readmitting 52 third-country nationals
(inclusive 16.05.2019)

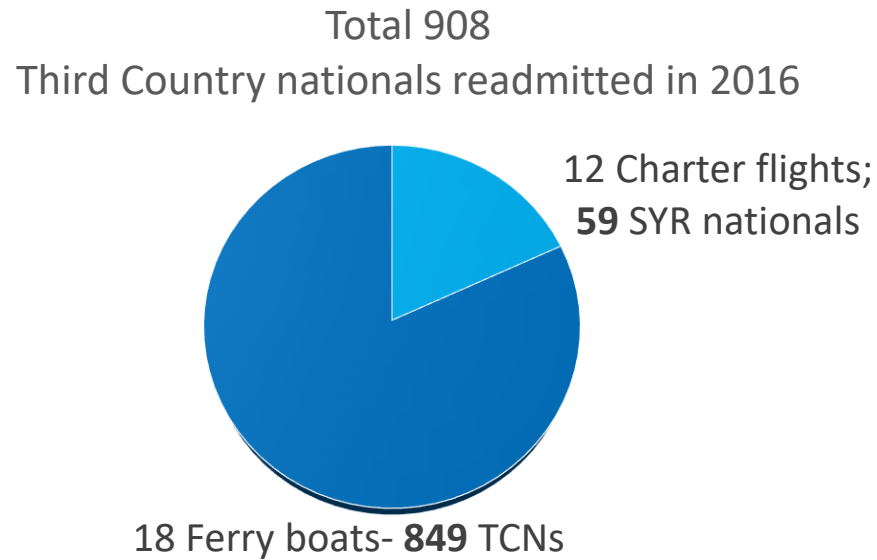


Readmissions Greece-Turkey 2016-2019

Top 10 nationalities readmitted to Turkey





Readmissions Greece-Turkey in 2016

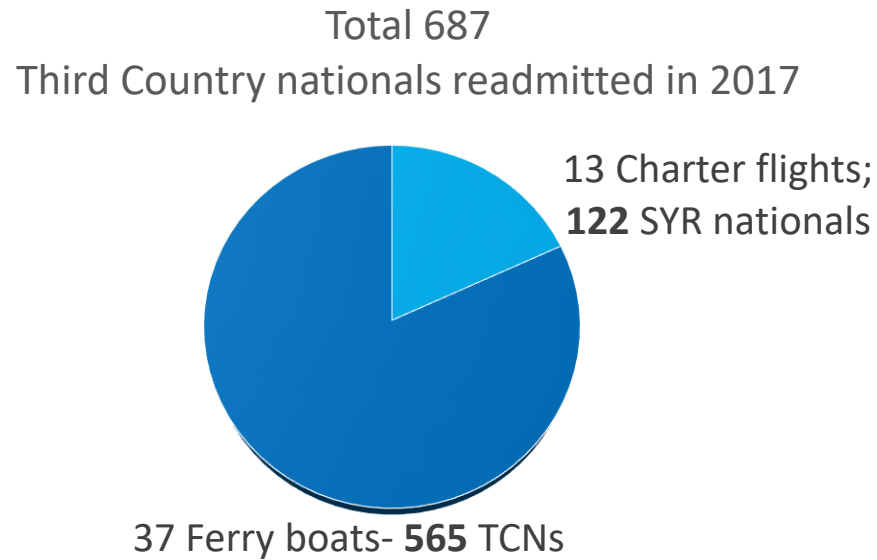


30 operations: 18 by ferries and 12 by charter flights.

Statistics in 2016



- 01st April 2016- January 2017 were carried out 30 readmission operations:
- **18 by sea** (ferry boat)
- **12 by air** (charter flights with the support of Denmark)
- **908 migrants** readmitted (849 by sea and 59 by air)
- Islands:  
- 1438 MS escorts and 556 GR escorts took part in operations
- 20 MS deployed escort officers: AT, BG, CZ, DE, DK, EE, FR, HR, HU, LT, LV, LU, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SI, SK

Readmissions Greece-Turkey in 2017



50 operations: 37 by ferries and 13 by charter flights.

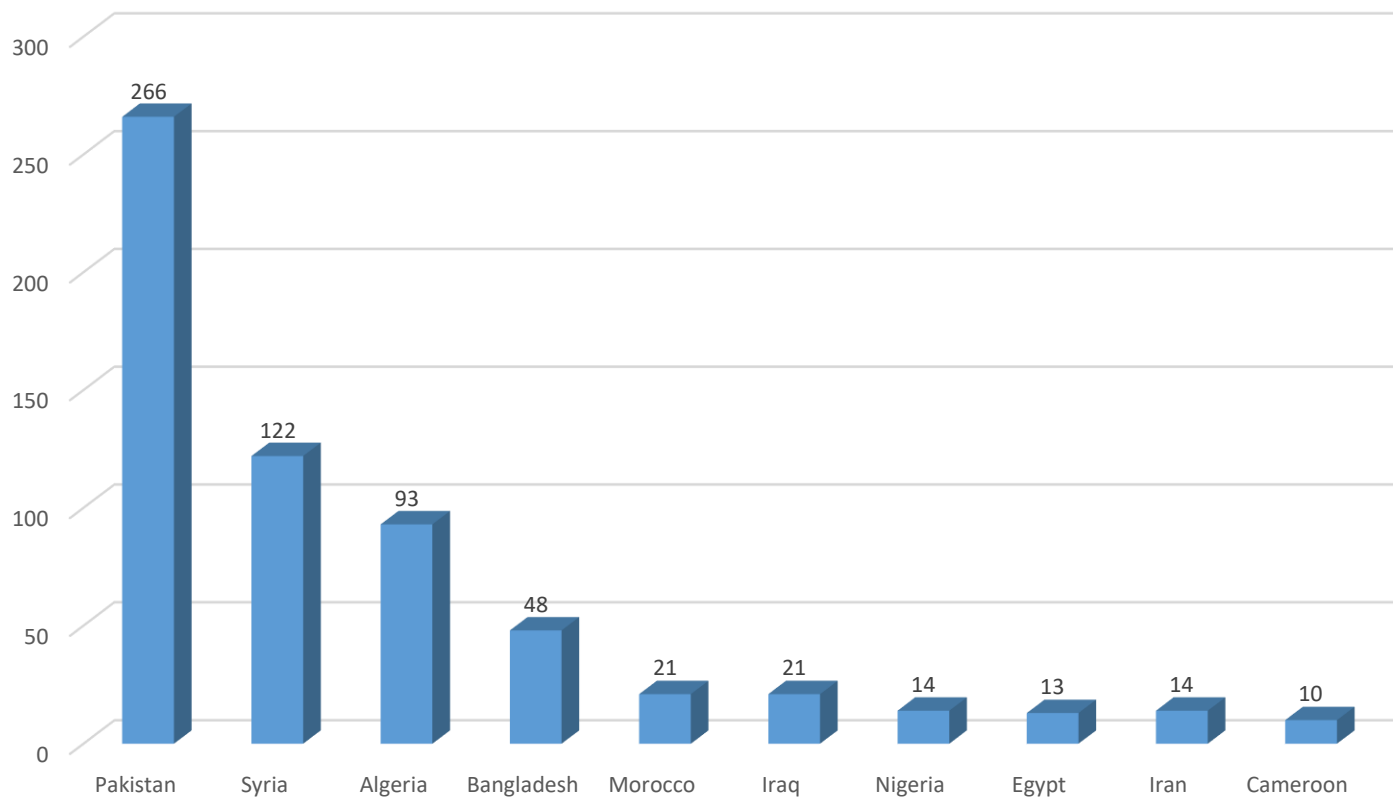
Statistics in 2017

- 01st February – 21st December 2017 were carried out 50 readmission operations:
- **37 by sea** (ferry boat)
- **13 by air** (charter flights with the support of Denmark)
- **687 migrants** readmitted (565 by sea and 122 by air)
- Islands:  
- 1623 MS escorts and 202 GR escorts took part in operations
- 15 MS deployed escort officers: AT, BG, DE,DK, EE, FR, HR, HU,LT, LV, LU,NL,PL,PT, SK

Readmissions Greece-Turkey 2017

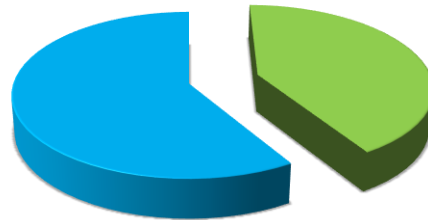
687 TCNs readmitted to Turkey in 2017 (50 operations)

Top 10 nationalities readmitted to Turkey 2017



Readmissions Greece-Turkey in 2018

Total 322
third country nationals readmitted



Ferry boat: 213 TCNs

Plane: 109
SYR nationals

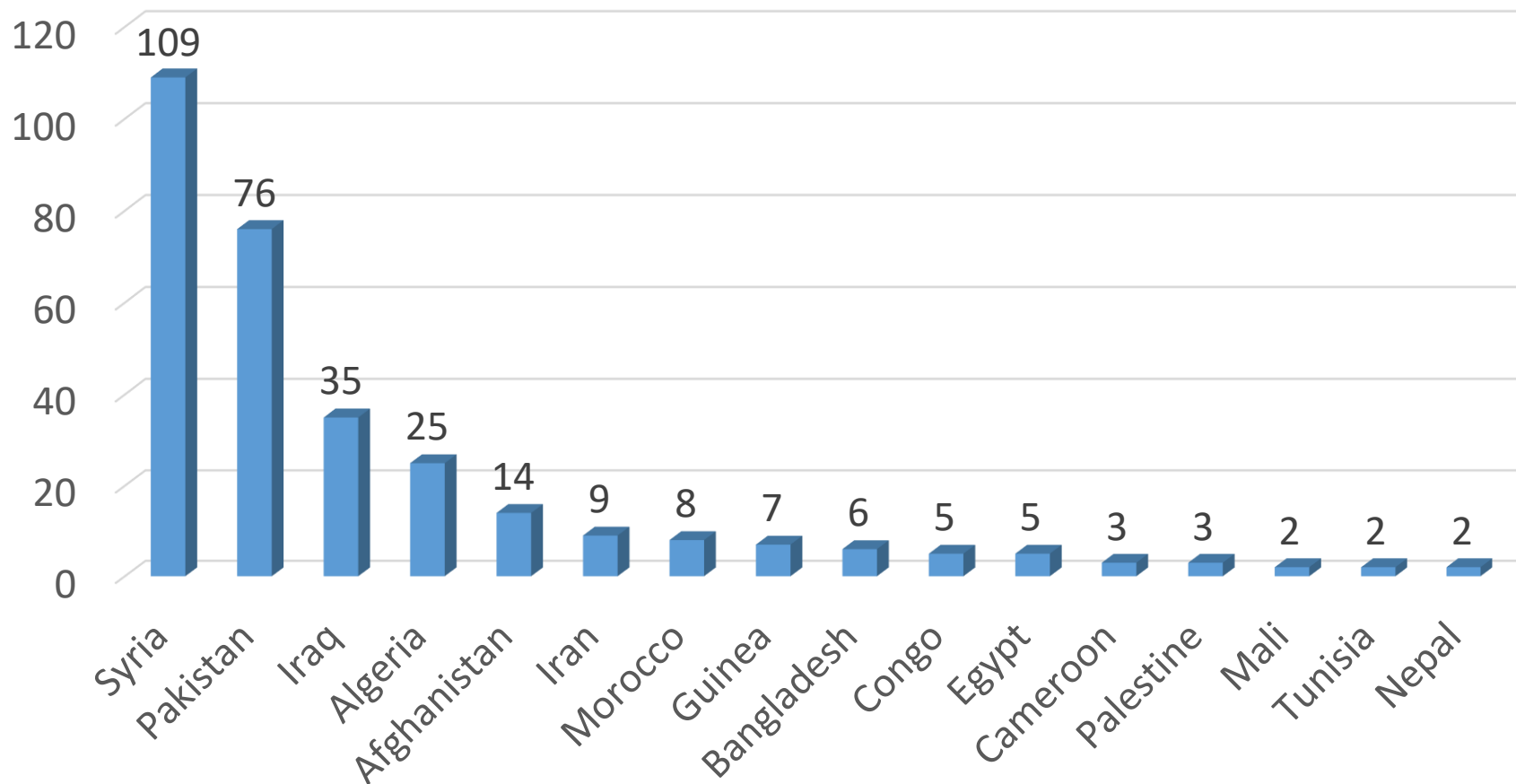
Via: ■ Plane ■ Ferry boat

44 operations: 31 by ferries and 13 by charter flights (until 21 December inclusive)



Readmissions Greece - Turkey 2018

322 TCNs readmitted to Turkey in 2018 (44 operations)

Top 10 nationalities readmitted to Turkey 2018



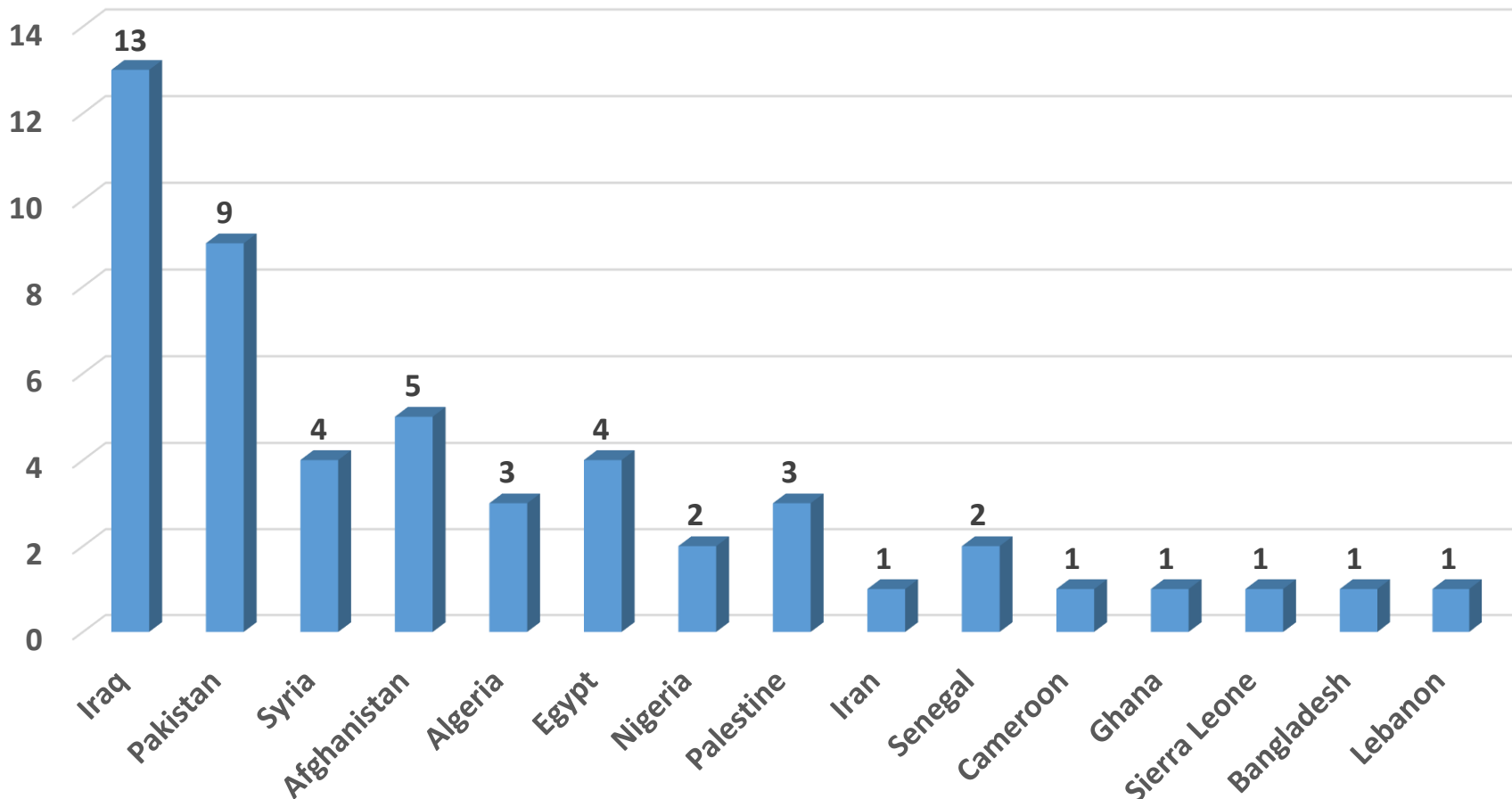
Statistics in 2018

- 01st February – 21st December 2018 were carried out 44 readmission operations:
- **31 by sea** (ferry boat)
- **13 by air**
- **322 migrants** readmitted (213 by sea and 109 by air)
- Islands:  
- 321 MS escorts deployed



Readmissions Greece - Turkey 2019

52TCNs readmitted to Turkey in 2019 (13 operations)


Top 10 nationalities readmitted to Turkey 2019



Statistics in 2019

- 11th January – 16th May 2019 were carried out 13 readmission operations:
- **12 by sea** (ferry boat)
- **1 by air**
- **52 migrants** readmitted (48 TCN by sea and 4 SYR by air)
- Island:  

Operational solutions

- MS escorts permanently **deployed** [REDACTED] to be immediately available for readmission operations.
- **Hellenic Police** [REDACTED] all the third country nationals to be readmitted and the main sea route for readmission is [REDACTED] harbor
- Frontex provides financial support to Greece for **inter-island transfer** of the TCNs to [REDACTED] from other hotspots. 
- During last Annual Bilateral Negotiation (ABN), it was agreed with MS to deploy an average of **30 escorts per month to cover the demands for readmission operations in 2019.**

Training periods in 2019

Training period 2019	First training day	Last training day	Total training days	Location
1			5.00	
2			5.00	
3			5.00	
4			5.00	
5			5.00	
6			5.00	
7			5.00	
8			5.00	
9			5.00	
10			5.00	
11			5.00	
12			5.00	
13			5.00	



Frontex Regulation 2016/1624

- **Art.36:** The Agency shall take the necessary initiatives **to ensure training for staff involved in return-related tasks** who are allocated to the pools referred to in Articles 29, 30 and 31. The Agency shall ensure that its staff and all staff who participate in return operations and in return interventions have received training in relevant Union and international law, including on fundamental rights and access to international protection, prior to their participation in operational activities organized by the Agency.

Common activities prior readmissions

- Request sent one week in advance by Hellenic Police HQ to Frontex for support and organization of a readmission operation (as agreed)
- European Centre for Returns starts internally the preparation with Pooled Resources Unit (to charter the ferry boat, buses, medical services, and catering, etc.) and externally (to charter the plane)
- Coordinating in [REDACTED] ith the Frontex Support officer and [REDACTED] Police Directorate the activities prior a readmission operation
- Coordinating the monthly training courses for the forced return escorts with Training Unit prior readmissions



Assets and Equipment used for readmissions

- **104 ferry boats** chartered in 2016-2019 (01.04.2016 - 16.05.2019 inclusive)
- **39 charter flights**
- **152 Buses**
- Velcro Handcuffs
- Vests for escorts and other participants
- Plastic medical gloves
- Plastic transparent bags with zipper
- Labels for luggage and personal belongings
- Protection Face Masks
- Antibacterial soap
- Catering
- Medical services
- Accreditation Cards

Implementation Plan

- Implementation Plan and Annexes
 - Annex 1 – Operational Overview
 - Annex 2 - Contact List
 - Annex 3 – Code of Conduct for JROs
 - Annex 4 – Serious Incident Report template
 - Annex 5 – The Agency’s rule on the Complaint Mechanism
 - Annex 6 – Complaint form
 - Appendix – List of potential Fundamental Rights violations during operations

Tasks of Forced Return Escorts (profile)

- **Definition: A Forced Return Escort is an official of a competent national authority of a Member State, who carries out escorting duties for the return of third country nationals**
- To operate in support of the national services of Member States responsible in the field of return, escorting persons subject to a return decision to be handed over to third country authorities
- To provide security, safety and well-being during the implementation of return operations by air, sea and land
- To act as a member of a team which is dedicated to the above mentioned tasks, supporting other officers when he/she has not been assigned a particular migrant to be returned
- To take necessary actions to cover the needs of vulnerable groups or families with children when appropriate

Tasks and powers of Forced Return Escorts. Use of force

- According to Articles 2(8) and 40 of the Regulation the deployed forced-return escorts from the pool will act as members of the team, and will have the capacity **to perform all tasks and exercise all powers for return** as well as those which are necessary for the realisation of the objectives of Directive 2008/115/EC.
- While performing their tasks, deployed escorts shall comply with Union and international law and shall observe fundamental rights and the national law of the organising Member State.
- The members of “Pool of forced return escorts” shall respect at all-time the provisions of the implementation plan related to modalities and principles to be taken into account to make **use of force and/or coercive measures** on the returnees.

Tasks and powers of Forced Return Escorts. Use of force

- Members of the teams may only perform tasks and exercise powers under instructions from and, as a general rule, in the presence of staff involved in return-related tasks of the host Member State. The host Member State may authorise members of the teams to act on its behalf.
- While performing their tasks and exercising their powers, members of the teams may carry equipment as authorized in accordance with the home Member State's national law.
- While performing their tasks and exercising their powers, **members of the teams shall be authorized to use force**, including service weapons, ammunition and **equipment**, with the consent of the home Member State and the host Member State, in the presence of border guards of the host Member State and in accordance with the national law of the host Member State. The host Member State may, with the consent of the home Member State, authorize members of the teams to use force in the absence of border guards of the host Member State. 7.

Tasks and powers of Forced Return Escorts. Use of force

- Service weapons, ammunition and equipment may be used in legitimate self-defence and in legitimate defence of members of the teams or of other persons in accordance with the national law of the host Member State.
- **‘member of the teams’** means a member of the European Border and Coast Guard teams or teams of **staff involved in return-related tasks participating in return operations or return interventions;**

Use of force

- Art.40.3. Members of the teams may only perform tasks and exercise powers under instructions from and, as a general rule, in the presence of border guards or staff involved in return-related tasks of the host Member State. The host Member State may authorise members of the teams to act on its behalf.
- Article art. 7 of Council Directive 2003/110/EC of 25 November 2003 on assistance in cases of transit for the purposes of removal by air, in order to empower the members of the “Pool of forced return escorts” to use force and restraints in the territory of the organising MS: *“When carrying out the transit operation, the powers of the escorts shall be limited to self-defence. In addition, in the absence of law-enforcement officers from the transit Member State or for the purpose of supporting the law-enforcement officers, the escorts may use reasonable and proportionate action in response to an immediate and serious risk to prevent the third-country national from escaping, causing injury to himself/herself or to a third party, or damage to property.”*

Instructions

- The forced-return escorts will wear throughout the operation an "escort" **yellow vest** which will be distributed during the preliminary training by the representative of the Agency along with the **Accreditation Cards**.
- Means of constraint: **Velcro handcuffs only**
- Accepted by Greek authorities
- Provided by Frontex

- **No weapons**

Operational briefing prior the start of the operation

- **The GRC Escort Leader**, FSO for Readmissions and other relevant participants will attend an operational briefing the day before the readmission operation in order to discuss the latest updates (e.g. the pax lists, seating plan, boarding and on-board procedures and arrival phases) and the security, including the use of coercive measures. The briefing point and time will be determined by the GRC Head of Operation in due time.
- **The GRC Escort Leader and FSO for readmissions are responsible to inform each Team Leader of contingent from different MS about the content of the Implementation Plan as well as the annexes and to ensure that they comply with it.**

Briefing with the ship master

- A separate briefing will be conducted by **GRC Escort Leader** and FSO for readmissions with the ship master and the ship crew. During the briefing, the GRC EL will agree and receive instructions from the captain of the ferry on the exercise of its power to maintain the safety and security of the ship, in line with Regulation 8 of Chapter XI-2 of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (*“If...a conflict between any safety and security requirements applicable to the ship arises during its operations, the master shall give effect to those requirements necessary to maintain the safety of the ship”*).

Accreditation Cards

- When taking part in the operation, the deployed escorts shall carry at all times an accreditation document issued by the Agency written in the official language of the OMS and in the official language of the institutions of the European Union.
- The document includes the name, nationality, rank and a recent digitized photograph of the officer.
- The document shall be returned back to the FX representative taking part in the operation at the end of it.
- The deployed forced-return escorts shall hold and always carry with them a **valid passports**.

Conclusions and recommendations

- Very good cooperation among all involved actors
- Standard operational procedures for return in place
- Use of double profile officers
- In case of increase of readmitted migrants due the finalization of asylum procedures the number of MS escorts deployments will increase

Code of Conduct for Return Operations and Return Interventions coordinated or organised by Frontex

- Respect for Fundamental Rights
- Safety in return operations and return interventions
- Cooperation with returnees and duty to inform
- Use of coercive measures
- Fitness to travel and medical examination
- Selection and training
- Referrals
- Responsibility

Code of Conduct for Return Operations and Return Interventions coordinated or organised by Frontex

- Identification
- Recording
- Medical staff and interpreters
- Forced-return monitors
- Data protection
- Reporting
- Investigation procedure and right to be informed
- Sanctions

Code of Conduct applicable to all persons participating in Frontex operational activities

- This code of conduct applies to all Frontex operational activities, including those which take place outside the territory of the Union and to all persons participating in them
- This code of conduct aims to promote general values intended to guarantee the principles of the rule of law and respect for fundamental rights with particular focus on vulnerable persons as well on persons seeking international protection

Code of Conduct applicable to all persons participating in Frontex operational activities

PRINCIPLES

- Lawfulness
- Fundamental rights
- International protection
- Performance of duties
- Responsibility
- Conflict of interests
- Confidentiality, personal data
- Behavioural standards

Code of Conduct applicable to all persons participating in Frontex operational activities

PROHIBITED CONDUCTS

- Prohibition of abuse of authority and position
- Non-Discrimination
- Prevention of harassment
- Consumption of alcohol
- Use of narcotics and drugs
- Prohibition on sexual services and sexual abuse
- Corruption and misconduct

Code of Conduct applicable to all persons participating in Frontex operational activities

SPECIAL RULES AND PRINCIPLES APPLICABLE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

- Use of force and weapons

FINAL PROVISIONS

- Awareness
- Duty to cooperate and to inform
- Sanctions

Deployment overview 2019

Period 1		Period 2		Period 3		Period 4		Period 5		Period 6	
DEU	4	DEU	4	DEU	4	DEU	4	DEU	4	DEU	4
LTU	11	LTU	12	NLD	2	NLD	2	BEL	1	LTU	6
NLD	2	NLD	2	NOR	2	SVK	7	LTU	6	HUN	3
POL	4	POL	4	LTU	14	CYP	1	LVA	1	NLD	2
PRT	2	PRT	2	POL	4	ROU	1	NLD	2	EST	6
SWE	5	HRV	2	ROU	1	LTU	11	EST	6	SVK	6
HRV	2	BEL	2	LVA	1	POL	4	FRA	6	NOR	2
LVA	1			BEL	1			POL	2		
				HRV	2						
	31		28		31		30		28		29
1 AUT FSO	1	1 AUT FSO	1	1 AUT FSO	1	1 AUT FSO	1	1 AUT FSO	1	1 AUT FSO	1
PERIOD 1	32	PERIOD 2	29	PERIOD 3	32	PERIOD 4	31	PERIOD 5	29	PERIOD 6	30



Deployment overview 2019

Period 7		Period 8		Period 9		Period 10		Period 11		Period 12		Period 13	
DEU	4	DEU	4	DEU	4	DEU	4	DEU	4	DEU	4	DEU	4
LTU	6	NLD	2	NLD	2	NLD	2	NLD	2	NLD	2	NLD	2
LVA	1	LTU	7	LTU	9	LTU	6	LTU	6	PRT	2	PRT	2
NLD	2	SWE	5	POL	4	POL	4	HRV	2	LTU	6	LTU	6
EST	6	SVK	7	FRA	6	CYP	1	LVA	1			LVA	1
HUN	3	HUN	3	NOR	2	BEL	2	BEL	1				
				SVN	2	SVK	7						
				LVA	1	HRV	2						
				HUN	3								
	22		28		33		28		16		14		15
1 AUT FSO	1	1 AUT FSO	1	1 AUT FSO	1	1 AUT FSO	1	1 AUT FSO	1	1 AUT FSO	1	1 AUT FSO	1
PERIOD 7	23	PERIOD 8	29	PERIOD 9	34	PERIOD 10	29	PERIOD 11	17	PERIOD 12	15	PERIOD 13	16



ANY QUESTIONS?



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