Early in March, Greece faced a proven Turkish-coordinated attempt by thousands of prospective immigrants and refugees to enter Greek and European territory illegally. It constituted a grave asymmetric threat, an attempted mass smuggling of migrants and a threat to public safety and public health. But most of all it was a threat to Greek national security.

The officers of the Hellenic Coast Guard who are responsible for guarding the Greek and European sea and land borders have for months maximized their efforts, operating around the clock with efficiency, a high sense of responsibility, perfect professionalism, patriotism, and also with respect for everyone’s life and human rights. Their actions are carried out in full compliance with the country’s international obligations, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue.

Over the past four months, in a characteristic example of the respect for human life shown by our personnel in the field, in a total of 250 incidents, not a single life has been lost. In fact, thousands of migrants have been rescued, in particular by the Hellenic Coast Guard, throughout the refugee/migration crisis, drawing the acknowledgment and praise of the international community.

As for the tendentious allegations of supposed illegal actions, we must emphasize that the operation practices of the Greek authorities have never included such actions. What’s more, internal investigative and disciplinary control mechanisms are fully implemented in cooperation with the judicial authorities and other competent bodies.

Given that Greece’s sea and land borders are also the external borders of the European Union, joint operations with FRONTEX are ongoing (Poseidon in the Aegean and Rapid Bordered Intervention Teams in Evros). Our officers also cooperate closely with NATO’s...
Standing Maritime Group 2’, which is operating against illegal trafficking and migration in the Aegean.

2. Παρακαλούμε για την ενημέρωσή σας.

Ο Εκπρόσωπος Τύπου Α.Λ.Σ-ΕΛ.ΑΚΤ.

ΠΛΩΤΑΡΧΗΣ Λ.Σ. ΚΟΚΚΑΛΑΣ Νικόλαος

Ψηφιακά υπογεγραμμένο από SOFIA SOTIRIADOU
Ημερομηνία: 2020.10.21 15:48:45 EEST
Αιτία: ΑΚΡΙΒΕΣ ΑΝΤΙΓΡΑΦΟ
Τόπος: ΠΕΙΡΑΙΑΣ