

10 September 2020

To the attention of:

Mr Michel, President of the European Council
Mr Sassoli, President of the European Parliament
Ms von der Leyen, President of the European Commission
Ms Gregori, EASO's Executive Director,

Concerning:

Public Statement on Vulnerable Children in the refugee situation in Greece

Dear Ms von der Leyen,
Dear Mr Michel,
Dear Mr Sassoli,
Dear Ms Gregori,

On April 22nd, Barcelona, Valencia and Amsterdam, jointly with other EU cities, sent a letter to the Presidents of the EU institutions to urge Europe to act and help given the deplorable conditions under which refugees were living on the Greek islands or along the border with Turkey.

On September 9th, the refugee camp in Moria, Greece, has been burned down in a fire, despite warnings from various humanitarian organizations working there. If the vulnerable situation of the refugees staying in this camp was severe, the conditions are now worsening even more rapidly.

As mayors and deputy mayors of major European cities, we are writing to demand all European governments to further commit themselves in solidarity, taking the example of the 11 EU countries that are relocating 1,600 unaccompanied minors from the Greek islands. We are not only concerned with the desolate situation of people of the camp, but with the lack of solidarity among Europeans, as in this case, with those who support the charge of migration, when this is a European problem, not the problem of Lesbos islanders only. For both reasons Europe must react soon under the principle of solidarity.

We also reiterate our willingness to help. We stand ready to contribute to protect children in desperate need of shelter, comfort and safety. We are here and ready to accommodate a fair share and to abide the principles of solidarity and generosity as all EU city and country should do.

We hope our commitment will enable us to help them.

Yours sincerely,



Rutger Groot Wassink
Deputy Mayor of Amsterdam



Ada Colau
Mayor of Barcelona



Joan Ribó
Mayor of València



Belit Onay
Mayor of Hannover