ENE-007073/2020Answer given by Ms Johanssonon behalf of the European Commission(26.3.2021)

The Commission has agreed a plan with Greek authorities and EU agencies to establish a new, up-to-standard reception centre on the island of Lesvos by early September 2021. Improving the reception conditions in the temporary Reception and Identification Centre (RIC) of Mavrovouni, on Lesvos, has been a priority of the Taskforce on Migration Management[[1]](#footnote-1).

The Hellenic Survey of Geology and Mineral Exploration did soil sampling and testing for lead contamination to verify the safety and security of the temporary reception facility on Lesvos.

Staff members of the Commission and of the European Asylum Support Office performed a site visit to Lesvos in the context of the work of the Taskforce when the soil samples were taken and could observe the soil sampling, although the process was entirely carried out by the Greek authorities.

The Greek authorities published the results of the testing and a report of the competent authority explaining the details of the process[[2]](#footnote-2). Out of the 12 soil samples collected, 11 samples from within the residential area were below the international safety threshold. One sample from the administration area of the site exceeded the safety threshold. This area was fenced, new soil was added and the area was gravelled as well as a concrete base was constructed in the areas of administration, reception and registration. The authorities plan additional controls to further reduce any risk of lead contamination.

The Greek authorities met non-governmental organisations, including twice with Human Rights Watch. During these meetings, the Greek authorities informed of the findings of the soil sampling and answered their questions. The Commission will continue following this matter closely.

1. <https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1728> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://migration.gov.gr/en/kato-apo-ta-diethni-oria-ta-epipeda-molyvdoy-sto-mavrovouni/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)