

Spokesperson's statement on allegations of misconduct by a humanitarian partner organisation in Greece, on behalf of Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides

The European Commission has in place a thorough mechanism to monitor and ensure that its humanitarian funding worldwide is implemented in full respect of all humanitarian principles and sound financial management.

Through this mechanism we have identified potentially serious allegations related to one of the humanitarian projects being implemented by a partner in Greece.

An allegation relates to a case of potential sexual exploitation of beneficiaries by the partner's staff members. Another allegation concerns potential financial corruption by these staff members.

Although these remain allegations under investigation, the Commission is taking them very seriously. We take a zero tolerance approach to any abuse of the rights and personal integrity of all refugees and migrants as well as to any misuse of funds.

Our primary concern is the welfare of the potential victims. Accordingly, we shall ensure that immediate support is provided to them.

We have already informed the Greek authorities and submitted the case to OLAF, the EU's anti-fraud office for immediate investigation.

Steps are being taken to suspend payments to the partner until the investigation is concluded.