

# EKA

## ATHENS LABOUR UNIONS ORGANIZATION

Member of the Greek General Confederation of Labour

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### INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY DECEMBER THE 18TH

In recent years, Greece has been at the center of global interest because of the economic crisis. According to the data economic crisis has forced young scientists to emigrate in search of better conditions and has led tens of thousands of our fellow citizens live at risk poverty.

Since 2013, world opinion has turned her gaze back to Greece, this time because of the refugee crisis. The conflict situations in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan have forced millions of fellow citizens to turn to Europe to save their lives. Greece thus becomes the gateway for these people, and particularly the Greek islands near the Turkish coast.

This year alone over 750,000 migrants have arrived in our country, trying to go to the countries of northern and central Europe, but hundreds have drowned in the Aegean Sea. The refugee issue is now properly classified as a "matter of national responsibility" by Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, but stressed that "our country should not and will not turn into a storehouse of souls". The islanders receive huge flows, nevertheless the attitude shown the compassion and solidarity that should characterize us. The same happens in Athens and northern Greece.

The Athens Labour Centre (EKA) condemns the tragic situation in Eidomeni at the borders between Greece and FYROM. It is not possible countries of the European Union, to act against the principles of the European Union and to close their borders, lifting wire fences.

The Athens Labour Centre expresses its sympathy and solidarity with the refugees and welcomes any action in favor of rights and dignity of life of refugees.



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