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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Mittwoch, 29. Januar 2025 12:24  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Access to safe areas for MSF on Samos

**Importance:** High

Dear Secretary General, dear Heracles,

I hope my e-mail finds you well.

We would like to express our concerns regarding the current situation in the Safe Area of the Samos Closed Controlled Access Center (CCAC), particularly in light of the recent monitoring visit conducted by the Swiss Contribution Office. The findings of this assessment, as well as reports from civil society organizations and frontline professionals, indicate severe deficiencies in healthcare, overcrowding, sanitation, and basic living conditions. These issues have a direct and significant impact on the well-being of the unaccompanied minors, whose needs remain largely unmet despite the facility's intended function as a safe and controlled environment. The Safe Area is currently facing significant challenges due to overcrowding, with far more unaccompanied minors than the space was originally designed to accommodate. Many lack basic necessities such as bedding, warm clothing, and adequate shelter, while security concerns and limited guardian support further exacerbate their vulnerability. Sanitation and hygiene conditions remain critical, with insufficient cleaning staff, no laundry services, and restrictions on basic hygiene supplies contributing to deteriorating living conditions. Waste accumulation and inconsistent access to clean water further impact the well-being of residents, making immediate action necessary to address these pressing concerns.

One of the key issues identified is the gap in healthcare provision. While the Hippocrates Programme offers some level of support, the supply of essential medicines appears insufficient, leading to difficulties in ensuring access to prescribed treatments. Unregistered children, in particular, are reportedly unable to obtain necessary medications through formal channels and are left with no alternative but to seek them independently, raising concerns about their safety and well-being. Given that Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) already operates within the CCAC but does not have access to the Safe Area, facilitating collaboration between MSF and Zeuxis to establish a structured medical support schedule could help address this gap and ensure that vulnerable individuals receive necessary healthcare. As you might know, this suggestion has also been submitted to the Secretary General for the Reception of Asylum Seekers.

Given the involvement of the Swiss-Greek Cooperation Programme in supporting the Safe Area's operations, ensuring that resources are effectively utilized to address these ongoing issues remains an important consideration. In this regard, it would be helpful to understand whether a contingency plan is in place to improve healthcare provision within the Safe Area, address overcrowding through transfers to the mainland, and enhance hygiene services. Additionally, given the concerns raised regarding medical support, we urge consideration of facilitating collaboration between MSF and Zeuxis to establish a structured and regular healthcare schedule within the Safe Area. This would contribute to ensuring consistent and professional medical assistance for those residing there. Furthermore, we are hopeful, that the recently approved increase of the budget for the transfer component of the NERM Support Measure will support efforts to alleviate the situation in the safe areas of the islands.

It would be my pleasure to meet you at your earliest convenience, in order to discuss the situation in the safe areas as well as our current and future cooperation within the Swiss-Greek Cooperation Programme.

Best regards,

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[REDACTED]