

EU MILITARY RESPONSE TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION?

Greece Absent... Again

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It is a common secret that emergency responses by committee to a growing threat are rarely successful. Yet, in the absence of institutional willingness, organization, and action plans for a robust pushback, even committees may be of use.

This is exactly what the European Union is now attempting in the face of the illegal immigration deluge originating in North Africa.

Long plagued by "humanitarian" indecision and band-aid measures, "united" Europe is now trying, at last, to form a military response to this veritable invasion as the calamity of the desperate steadily grows. A [defense ministers' meeting](#) in Lorient, France, held recently, aimed at working out an initial action plan on sharing intelligence and planning for strikes against smugglers operating out of Libya.

Greece, along with Italy and Malta, the victim of horrendous illegal immigrant flows, was absent from this meeting (in contrast, Poland, whose gates are not exactly threatened by 'irregular immigration,' was very much present).

It is unclear whether this absence was a political decision or, simply, yet another example of the usual Greek inertia. If a political decision stopped the Greek defense ministry from attending, this decision was irresponsible and damaging. If, on the other hand, inertia prevailed, the Greek government is again guilty of unpardonable inaction and failure to address an immediate national security threat.

While there is no doubt that the ongoing debt disaster has significantly damaged all Greek government operations, dealing with the country's security and long term stability must not

slacken. In the case of illegal immigration, the incumbent government of the left wing SYRIZA party has a well-established "mindset" *against* doing what it takes to control the illegal immigration crisis and its impact upon Greek society. Under the circumstances, this is a deadly gap.

We have argued for the longest time that illegal immigration has transcended the limits of "humanitarian" response long ago and now firmly forms a national security threat of the utmost significance.

Turkey's commitment to a "war-but-no-war" scenario by means of pushing tens of thousands of desperate souls across the waters and onto Greek islands is a well-established fact that continues to remain without a satisfactory response. If anything, the Lorient meeting, and the first, even if uncertain, whiff of EU "determination" vis-a-vis illegal immigration should have energized the Greek government to act immediately.

The SYRIZA government's "governing" is increasingly called out over obvious bungling and in-action. To be fair, however, with Greece's EU "partners" continuing to hammer upon a bankrupt country, a broken economy and a society in deep crisis, *any* government would be under tremendous pressure to meet both the merciless European onslaught and the need for determined action in national security.

That being said, the dire emergencies surrounding Greece do not in any way mitigate government responsibilities in maintaining defense readiness and appropriate planning for dealing with threats. Contrary to claims that the Greek armed forces have suffered irreparable damage because of the catastrophic "bailout," orchestrated by the EU, Greece's defense capabilities remain at levels that can meet challenges, although shortages do exist and random economies, imposed by the crisis, have caused noticeable "collateral damage."

As to justifications for using military force in order to deal with illegal immigration, the SYRIZA government -- as well as European governments, in general -- should begin registering signs coming from countries outside Europe. Only recently, for example, both Indonesia and Malaysia have indicated that their coast guard and naval forces will begin to rebuff illegal immigrant boats triggering claims that their actions will cause a humanitarian crisis. Both countries through appear committed to their announcement.

Greece possesses no luxuries that can be sacrificed in pursuit of "humanitarian" and largely open door illegal immigration policies. Without any meaningful help from "united" Europe and with scarce resources running out fast, PM Tsipras and his team must decide *now* on **Greece adopting pro-active measures to deal with the illegal immigrant deluge.**

That must happen *today*. Tomorrow will be too late.

