

Prime Minister Mitsotakis: New Patrol Boats Mark a Stronger, Safer Future for Greece's Maritime Borders



In a significant move to bolster Greece's maritime defense and humanitarian efforts, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis addressed an official ceremony on September 2, 2025, marking the reception and integration of five high-speed patrol boats into the Hellenic Coast Guard fleet. Speaking alongside key government officials, naval leadership, and local authorities, Mitsotakis underscored the strategic and symbolic importance of the new vessels.

"These state-of-the-art patrol boats represent much more than an upgrade in maritime infrastructure," Mitsotakis said. "They reflect our ongoing commitment to extending the rule of law across Greek waters and to defending our nation's borders while upholding our humanitarian responsibilities."

Addressing criticism aimed at the Coast Guard, Mitsotakis took a firm stance in support of those serving on the front lines. "Let us shut our ears to the irresponsible voices who, from the comfort of their living rooms, slander those who brave the sea in service to their country," he said. "Your actions, your presence, speak louder than any accusation. You protect not just Greece's coasts, but also the external borders of Europe."

The Prime Minister highlighted measurable progress in managing migration flows. Between January and August 2025, total illegal arrivals dropped by 7.2% compared to the same period in 2024, with some Eastern Aegean islands experiencing reductions of over 42%. While initial surges were observed from Libya, a temporary suspension of asylum procedures helped reverse the trend. Mitsotakis noted that in August, Crete saw as many arrivals in a month as it did in a single day during July—a dramatic shift credited to enhanced surveillance and deterrence capabilities.

The procurement of these new vessels follows specifications tailored by Greek experts to address the unique geographical and operational challenges of the Aegean. Mitsotakis expressed hope that future defense programs will include increased participation from Greek shipyards, which have been revitalized under recent government initiatives. "These vessels are not only built for the Greek seas—they are built by Greek minds and hands. We encourage our domestic shipbuilding industry to participate fully in upcoming competitive tenders," he said.

In closing, the Prime Minister extended a heartfelt message to the crews who will man the new boats. "You deserve the best tools for your tireless service. The state stands firmly by your side—not just with words, but with action and investment. May these vessels serve safely and may their crews always return home unharmed."

The new vessels are designed with both defense and humanitarian missions in mind. Equipped with ballistic protection, remote-controlled weaponry, and advanced medical and rescue capabilities, they offer a dual-function approach to maritime security. Mitsotakis emphasized this as central to Greece's comprehensive migration strategy, which balances the protection of national sovereignty with respect for human dignity.

