

**HELLENIC REPUBLIC**

**GREEK NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

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***Contribution to the questionnaire with regard to the implementation of Human Rights  
Council resolution 35/29 on the contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human  
Rights Council and its universal periodic review***

1. The Greek Parliament has the following specialized Committees dealing with human rights: a) the Special Permanent Committee on Equality, Youth and Human Rights, which encompasses two subcommittees, namely –the Subcommittee for people with disabilities and the Subcommittee for combating human trafficking and exploitation; and b) the Special Permanent Committee on monitoring the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights. The above-mentioned committees deal exclusively with human rights. There are two more parliamentary committees, namely the Standing Committee on Public Administration, Public Order and Justice, as well as the Special Permanent Committee on Institutions and Transparency, which sometimes deal with human rights issues on an ad hoc basis.
2. Yes
3. The Special Permanent Committee on Equality, Youth and Human Rights is responsible for the research and the elaboration of proposals regarding the promotion (in the family, education and other social structures) of the principle of the equality of sexes. The committee monitors the safeguard and implementation of this principle by the administration. The committee is also concerned with the respect and protection of human rights. The Subcommittee for people with disabilities records and studies the various problems of people with disabilities. It aims at the safeguard of equal opportunities in the accessibility of social goods, economic and cultural life and submits proposals on the improvement of the current institutional framework. The Subcommittee for combating human trafficking and exploitation is concerned with issues related to human trafficking, whereas the Special Permanent Committee on monitoring the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights is entrusted with the task of following up the implementation in the Greek legal order of the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights. The Standing Committee on Public Administration, Public Order and Justice is designated as competent on matters of the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Restructuring, of the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights, of the Minister of State for the fight against corruption and the persecution of financial and economic crime and of the Minister of State heading the General Secretariats of Information and Communication and Mass Media. Finally, the Special Permanent Committee on Institutions and Transparency is responsible for exercising parliamentary control on independent administrative authorities and on mass media. It additionally elaborates proposals that contribute to the transparency of public life.
4. No information available.
5. The Special Permanent Committee on monitoring the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights is entrusted with the task of following up the implementation in the Greek legal order of the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights. There is no information available for the other questions.
6. The Special Permanent Committee on Equality, Youth and Human Rights consists of 21 members, 12 of whom are women and 10 from opposition parties. The Subcommittee for

people with disabilities consists of 13 members, 7 of whom are women and 6 from opposition parties. The Subcommittee for combating human trafficking and exploitation consists of 13 members, 5 of whom are women and 6 from opposition parties. The Special Permanent Committee on monitoring the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights consists of 21 members, 6 of whom are women, and 10 from opposition parties. The Standing Committee on Public Administration, Public Order and Justice consists of 54 members, 12 of whom are women and 26 from opposition parties or independent MPs. The Special Permanent Committee on Institutions and Transparency consists of 21 members, 4 of whom are women and 10 from opposition parties. All of the above committees are normally supported by staff with technical expertise in law in general and human rights law in particular. The legislative framework of the above-mentioned specialized Committees is as follows: Art. 68 of the Greek Constitution includes a general provision on standing parliamentary committees, without naming them individually. Articles 31-48 and 89-91 of the Hellenic Parliament by-laws (Standing Orders) regulate in detail the institutional and operational aspects of the various parliamentary committees. In particular, Standing Committees are instituted and composed at the onset of every Regular Session by a decision of the Speaker of the Parliament, in order to elaborate and examine Bills or Law Proposals. Following the Constitutional revision of 2001 and the respective amendments made to the Parliament's Standing Orders, Standing Committees may also exercise both legislative work and parliamentary control. To the extent provided by law and the Standing Orders, they moreover may discuss issues that fall within their competence and give opinions on forthcoming appointments to certain public posts. Moreover the standing committees are informed by the competent Minister or the representative of the agency along with the competent Minister before the conclusion of public contracts of considerable value (over 20 million Euros). The special permanent committees (art. 43A of the Standing Orders) are established at the onset of each regular session, except for the Special Permanent Committee on Institutions and Transparency, which is established at the onset of the parliamentary term and operates at the entire duration of the term.

The Special Permanent Committee on Equality, Youth and Human Rights, the Standing Committee on Public Administration, Public Order and Justice and the Special Permanent Committee on Institutions and Transparency are fully operational and regularly invite the GNCHR to their sessions. To the GNCHR's knowledge, the Special Permanent Committee on monitoring the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights met for the last time on 31/03/2017.

The GNCHR is on very good terms and cooperates with the Hellenic Parliament on human rights' issues. Therefore, we are of the view that the above-mentioned committees would be favorable to the development of international principles on Parliaments and Human Rights by the UN taking into account those for the independence and effectiveness of NHRIs. As mentioned above, most of the committees invite the GNCHR to their sessions. Moreover, the annual report of the GNCHR is discussed each year before the Hellenic Parliament in accordance with the relevant provisions of its Standing Orders. That said, even closer cooperation with the Hellenic Parliament on human rights' issues is always desirable. For the other questions, there is no available information.