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PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
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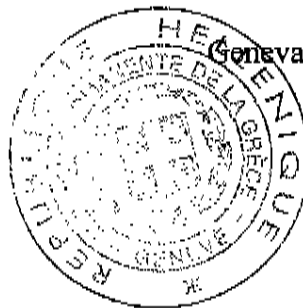
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**NOTE VERBALE**

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the latter's Note Verbale, dated 19 September 2014, has the honour to transmit the responses of the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Welfare to the questionnaire of the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing.

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 31 October 2014



To: **The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**  
**UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing**  
**Special Procedures Branch**  
**Palais Wilson – Room 3-077**

Fax: +41 22 917 90 08  
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Att.: 4 pages

## QUESTIONNAIRE OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING

### A. Distribution of responsibilities related to the right to adequate housing:

1. Please identify the levels of government (national, provincial /state, municipal) primarily responsible for the following: (where primary responsibility is shared please check more than one)

<b>Housing programme</b>				
<b>Income support (eg. transfer payments to individuals, welfare, social security and/or rent subsidies/supplements)</b>				
<b>Tenancy and security of tenure legislation</b>				
<b>Infrastructure (eg. Water/sanitation, electricity)</b>				
<b>Prohibition of discrimination in housing</b>				

2. What are the primary bases for the allocation of responsibilities among different levels of government? Please identify the appropriate provision(s) and provide a copy or link if possible:

Legislation related to the sub- national level (allocation of responsibilities among different levels of government):

- Constitutional
- National framework legislation or housing strategy
- Sub-national level legislation or housing strategy
- Inter-governmental agreement
- Other-Please explain

3. What role does the national level government play in relation to housing and related programs? How is compliance with the right to adequate housing structured between the national and sub-national levels? If possible please kindly provide concrete examples of how these roles and compliance mechanisms are operationalized.

4. Where sub-national governments hold key responsibilities in relation to the right to adequate housing, please describe how programs and policies are co-ordinated nationally and what responsibilities remain with national level institutions.

- 5. Where housing and related programs are administered by sub-national level governments, by whom and how are these programs funded? Are conditions attached to the funding which seek to ensure the resources are spent in a way that protects the right to adequate housing? How is this monitored?**

**B. Accountability of Sub- National Governments**

**1. Are sub-national governments legally accountable to the right to adequate housing on the basis of any of the following?**

- International human rights law? (Yes/No)
- Constitution/ National Bill of rights (Yes/No)
- National or sub-national legislation (Yes/No)
- State level or municipal level Bills of Rights/ Charters (Yes/No)
- Inter-governmental agreements (Yes/No)
- Conditional financing (eg. Budget transfers from national level to sub-national) (Yes/No)

**2. With respect to the above and where applicable, please identify:**

**I. The relevant provision.**

Provisions assigning relevant responsibilities to local government authorities are included in articles 75, 185, 187 and 188 of law 3468/2006 (“Code of Municipalities and Communities”) and article 94 of law 3852/2010 (the “Kallikrates reform”). In particular:

In the area of responsibilities entitled “Social Protection and Solidarity” point 3 article 75 of law 3463/2006, the responsibility stated below shall be provided: “Care for the support of the homeless and needy registered municipal residents, through the concession of municipal or community land or through financial aid, means of subsistence and health care to the residents living in extreme poverty”.

In Unit B, article 94, law 3852/2010 in the form of addition to the previous unit, point 12, the responsibility stated below shall be provided: “financial support to self-sheltered, rental of buildings, arrangement of issues related to social housing and adopting /imposing sanctions in case of infringement of the relevant legislation”.

Article 185, par 3 of law 3463/2006 provides for the possibility of free ownership concession and use of municipal real estate to specific population groups (Roma, people of Geek descent).

Article 187 of the same law provides for the possibility of a direct divestiture process in favor of the homeless and the needy registered municipal residents, providing for special conditions. ( Price, repayment).

Article 188 of the same law provides for municipalities the possibility to build houses for homeless and needy - low income registered municipal residents.

**II. The sub-national levels of government to which the legal provision applies.**

The above mentioned provisions relate to the first tier of local government (municipalities).

**III. The means of enforcement (eg. Courts, tribunals, national human rights**  
**mechanisms, administrative mechanisms, etc) and**

### **Ministry of Labour, Social Security and Welfare**

Till 2012, the Workers' Housing Organisation (OEK) was a public law entity, acting at national level, which provided housing assistance to workers and Employees of the private sector and of some public entities, who were contributing obligatorily by 1% of their salaries into OEK's funds. In February 2012 the OEK was abolished and since then all its actions have been suspended. The Manpower Employment Organisation (OAED) has been entrusted to manage the obligations that had already been undertaken by the OEK (rent subsidy, interest subsidy, settlements under construction etc).

For about a year, a Provisory Management Committee was put in place to deal with all these items. In April 2013 a law was issued, according to which the OAED becomes the full legal successor of the OEK, taking over the role of providing housing protection. The OAED is also a national level public law entity but, for the moment, it has not yet planned and applied new housing programmes, dealing with the accomplishment of pending affairs related to OEK activities.