

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON
ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
IN DECISION-MAKING AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE
IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

[Fourth](#) meeting

[Chisinau, 29 June – 1 July, 2011](#)

Item [_____](#) of the provisional agenda

Procedures and mechanisms facilitating the implementation of the Convention:

Reports on implementation

IMPLEMENTATION REPORT SUBMITTED BY GREECE

Article 10, paragraph 2, of the Convention requires the Parties, at their meetings, to keep under continuous review the implementation of the Convention on the basis of regular reporting by the Parties. Through decision I/8, the Meeting of the Parties established a reporting mechanism whereby each Party is requested to submit a report to each meeting of the Parties on the legislative, regulatory and other measures taken to implement the Convention, and their practical implementation, according to a reporting format annexed to the decision. For each meeting, the secretariat is requested to prepare a synthesis report summarizing the progress made and identifying any significant trends, challenges and solutions. The reporting mechanism was further developed through decision II/10, which addressed, inter alia, the issue of how to prepare the second and subsequent reports.

- Deleted: UNITED [1]
- Formatted ... [2]
- Formatted ... [3]
- Formatted ... [4]
- Formatted ... [5]
- Formatted ... [6]
- Formatted ... [7]
- Deleted: ... [8]
- Deleted: <#>Physical Pla ... [9]
- Deleted: <#>,Competent ... [10]
- Deleted: <#>. ... [11]
- Formatted ... [11]
- Deleted: <#>Physical P ... [12]
- Deleted: <#>,through th ... [13]
- Deleted: <#>Recent rep ... [14]
- Deleted: <#>do not apply ... [15]
- Deleted: <#> directly ... [15]
- Formatted ... [16]
- Deleted: <#> ... [16]
- Deleted: <#> Actions fo ... [17]
- Formatted ... [18]
- Formatted ... [19]
- Deleted: <#>¶ ... [20]
- Formatted ... [20]
- Formatted ... [21]
- Formatted ... [22]
- Formatted ... [23]
- Formatted ... [24]
- Formatted ... [25]
- Formatted ... [26]
- Formatted ... [27]
- Formatted ... [28]
- Deleted: <#>¶ ... [29]
- Formatted Table ... [30]
- Formatted ... [31]
- Formatted ... [32]
- Formatted ... [33]
- Formatted ... [34]
- Formatted ... [35]
- Formatted ... [36]
- Deleted: Third ... [37]
- Deleted: Riga, 11–13 June ... [38]
- Deleted: ... [39]
- Deleted: 08 ... [40]
- Deleted: 6 (a) ... [41]
- Deleted: ² ... [42]
- Deleted: ¶ ... [43]
- Deleted: GE.08-23296 ... [44]

I. PROCESS BY WHICH THIS REPORT HAS BEEN PREPARED

1. The Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MoEECC) has been established in 2009, replacing existing Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works in order to confront the continuous environmental problems and to adopt a new development model – the model of Green Development- that will secure a better quality of life for every

citizen. Regarding the process by which this report has been prepared, the MoEECC, has invited the following Public Authorities for consultation and contribution to the preparation of the present report: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, lifelong learning and Religious Affairs, Ministry of Regional Development and Competitiveness, Ministry of Interior, decentralization & e-government, Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights, Ministry of Rural Development and Food, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Islands and Fisheries, Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Hellenic Food Authority (EFET), and Hellenic Ombudsman. Additionally the following departments of the MoEECC, the Regions of Greece, Competent Bodies and NGOs have also been invited for contribution and comments to, this report.: Department of International Relations and EU Affairs, Special Service for the Environment, Environmental Planning Directorate, Bureau of National Network for Environmental Information, Air Pollution and Noise control Directorate, Special Secretariat for Water (former Central Water Service), Special Management Service of the Operational Programme “Environment and Sustainable Development” (EPPER), Spatial Planning Directorate, Urban Planning Directorate, Special Projects Upgrading areas Directorate, Inspection Secretariat of Environment and Energy, Directorate General for Energy, Special Secretariat Forests, Directorate General of Development, Directorate General for Protection of Forests and Natural Environment, the National Centre of Environment and Sustainable Development, as well as 13 regions of Greece including their local authorities and prefectures and the NGOs, Mediterranean Information Office (MIO- ECSDE), WWF Hellas, Greek Society for the Protection of Environment and Heritage, as well as Green Peace (Greece).

Taking into consideration the restriction on the length of national implementation reports prepared as official United Nations documents, this edition is shorter than the first draft report which includes more detailed information.

This report has been based on the report from the previous reporting cycle and has been updated with new information. Recent reports of the MoEECC, such as the recent report to EC on directive 2003/4, recent studies, as well as relevant inputs of public authorities to the parallel OECD³ environmental performance review preparation, concerning issues of this report, have also been taken into consideration.

2. The above participation included a consultation period of approximately 11 weeks before the first draft is displayed, on the Internet (by e-mail, regular mail and where necessary, with clarification meetings and discussions). After the completion of the first draft, it was displayed for public consultation on the official website of MoEECC for four weeks. A special e-mailbox has been set up for the public and NGOs to submit comments on the first draft of the report. Submitted comments have been integrated. Decisions 1/8 and 11/10 on reporting were taken into consideration and where possible the recommendations of the Convention’s Compliance

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/GRC¶

Formatted: Portuguese (Brazil)

Formatted: English (U.S.)

Formatted: English (U.K.)

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Deleted: ¶

Deleted: Hellenic Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Climate Change ,

Deleted: Physical Planning and Public Works,

Deleted: through the Department of International Relations and EU Affairs,

Deleted: ?National

Deleted: Public Administration and Decentralisation ,

Deleted: ercantile

Deleted: and of Aegean and Island Policy

Deleted: .

Deleted: Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Climate Change

Formatted: English (U.K.)

Deleted: Physical Planning and Public Works

Deleted: consulted

Deleted: for

Deleted: the completion of

Deleted: Control of

Deleted:

Deleted: Special Service of Managing the Competitive Project “Environment and Sustainable Development” (EPPER)

Deleted: Directorate for

Deleted: Upgrading

Deleted:

Deleted:

Deleted: 2

Deleted: was available

Deleted: and

Deleted: MoE

Deleted: four

Deleted: Additionally, a

Deleted: contents of the questionnaire and on the

³ Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development.

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/G RC¶

Formatted: Right

Committee. It is the second report of Greece, and due to recent local and regional elections there was a delay of the answers of regional and local authorities to the questionnaire but efforts were made to meet the quality requirements of the information included in the Report.

Deleted: Since this is the first report by Greece, it was difficult to meet the time frames, but efforts were made to meet the quality requirements of the information included in the report.

II. PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES RELEVANT FOR UNDERSTANDING THE REPORT

3. According to Article 101 of the Constitution, the administration of the State is organized in accordance with the principle of decentralization. Regions constitute another level of administrative organization provided by law. According to Article 102 of the Constitution, the administration of local affairs belongs to the local government agencies. The first level of local government (the municipalities and the communes) has been also established. Finally, relevant laws provide for the second level of local government, the prefecture government whose authority extends to the territory of all the local government agencies of a prefecture.

A new Law "Kallikratis" (L.3852/10 OJG 87/7 -6-2010) that comes into force on 1-11-2011 established the first level of local government that consists of local municipalities and the second level of local government that consists of 13 Regions. Besides the State decentralization that consists of 7 decentralized administrations, also established, as well as the merging of some municipalities and communities and the abolition of prefecture government. 13 governors elected for 13 Regions in November 2010

4. International treaties and Conventions, require, according to Article 28 of the Constitution, a national law voted by the Parliament, through which they are ratified and are not applied directly or have a direct effect upon its entry into force. Greece ratified the Convention at the end of 2005 and thus became a Party (see art. 3). For the purpose of a better understanding of this report, it should be noted that the implementation of the Convention in Greece is generally based on EU Directives, which have already been transposed into national law (see art. 3).

Deleted: such as the Convention

Deleted: do not apply

III. LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND OTHER MEASURES IMPLEMENTING THE GENERAL PROVISIONS IN PARAGRAPHS 2, 3, 4, 7 AND 8 OF ARTICLE 3

Article 3, paragraph 2

5. In Greece, there is a complete legal framework regulating access to environmental information and access to information and ensuring that officials and authorities assist and provide the required guidance.

6. The Convention was ratified by the Greek Parliament in December 2005 through Law 3422/12-12-2005 (*Official Journal of the Government* (OJG) A 303 /2005). According to article 3, paragraph 9 (a), of Joint Ministerial Decision (JMD) 11764/653/2006 (OJG 327B/17-3-2006) through which the Directive 2003/4/EC, on public access to environmental information was transposed, officials are required to support the public in seeking access to information. The 2003/4/EC Directive was formulated by the European Commission (EC) for the better implementation of the first pillar of the Convention by the EU Member States. According to Article 3, paragraph 1, of the above-mentioned JMD, public authorities make available environmental information held by or for them to any

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/GRC¶
Formatted: Portuguese (Brazil)

applicant at his request within the deadlines set by law. A circular issued by the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MoEECC) was sent to Environmental Administration at national and at regional level, giving guidance concerning Aarhus Convention and the above JMD on public access to environmental information and asking the officials to support the public in seeking access to information.

According to the reports received by administration at national and regional level, officials, in their majority, are supporting the public in seeking access to information however as a main problem and obstacle is reported lack of human and other resources(staff and funding) as well as heavy work load.

Deleted: If a request is formulated in a too general manner, the public authority asks the applicant as soon as possible to specify the request and assists the applicant in doing so. If the information requested is not held by or for the public authority to which the request is addressed the public authority transfers the request to the competent authority within three days and informs the applicant accordingly (for more information, see art. 4). ¶

7. In Greece, the right of access to information is not limited only to environmental issues. Due to restrictions on the length of the reports detailed legal information on this issue is included in the previous report of Greece.

Deleted: This right has been increasing in significance since, according to the Constitution, the competent service or authority is obliged to reply to requests for information and for issuing documents, especially certificates, supporting documents and attestations within a set deadline not exceeding 60 days, as specified by law. In the case that this deadline elapses without action or in case of unlawful refusal, in addition to any other sanctions and consequences of law, special compensation is also paid to the applicant, as specified by law (art. 10, para. 3, of the Constitution 1975/1986/2001). The right of access to information and to electronically handled information is also provided in Article 5 (a) of the Constitution, where it is stated that facilitation of access to electronically handled information, as well as of the production, exchange and diffusion thereof, constitutes an obligation of the State. The right to access to official documents is also ensured by Law 1599/86 (art. 16) as well as by Law 2690/1999 regarding the "Administrative Procedure Code". ¶

8. Lists of public Authorities are publicly accessible in the Citizens Service Centers (CSCs) as well as in the CSCs' Web site. Citizens Service Centres (CSCs) have been established by the Ministry of Interior, Decentralization and E- Government in regions, prefectures and local authorities all over Greece by law 3013/2002. CSCs are effectively assisting the citizens in dealing with public administration, and in accessing information and documents. . The CSC website has been designed and developed for efficient electronic information and service for citizens, where a "Guide for the Citizen" is displayed. In addition, it now gives citizens the possibility to submit comments and electronic applications regarding a wide series of administrative documents, thus implementing a substantial step towards e-governance in Greece. The Citizen Service Call Centre (1500) is also an important step towards citizens' information.

Ministry of Interior, proceeded to the publication of the newspaper "journalists", which promotes information to citizens on key issues of Public Administration. The creation in the Ministries and in its supervised bodies, in prefectural governments and in local authorities to a level of more than 20,000 inhabitants, reception offices of the Citizens, aiming to organize and systematize the provision of information to citizens and provide guidance for immediate and accurate service.

Deleted: Public Administration and Decentralization

Deleted: .

Deleted: 64

Deleted: provision of public information.

Deleted: ¶

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: Additionally, a Citizens' Service Bureau operates within the MoE and a Citizen's Service Bureau or a Public Relations ... [37]

Deleted: Additional

Deleted: on environmental matters and on activities of the MoE can

Deleted: be

Field Code Changed

Deleted: minenv

Deleted: currently under reconstruction.

Deleted: I

Deleted: on environmental issues

Deleted: can be

9. A Citizens' Service Office operates within the (MoEECC) assisting and informing citizens about the competent departments of the Ministry where they can find the required information and if possible, bringing them in contact with the competent officials. A Citizen's Service Office and /or a Public Relations Department operates also in other Ministries to assist citizens in dealing with public administration. A Press Department operates in every ministry, competent for diffusing press releases regarding each ministry's activities. A special help desk, which consists of officers especially appointed for public information and assistance on relevant issues, has been established by the Managing Unit of the Operational Environment Programme (EPPER) under the MoEECC. Access to environmental information concerning the EPPER is also acquired through the respective website (www.epper.gr)and (www.epperaa.gr), constantly updated. Also operates a website to complete a form of direct communication with the service. Representatives of environmental NGOs participate in the Steering Committee of EPPER kaiEPPERAA. Environmental information is also accessed through the Ministry's official website (www.ypeka.gr), redesigned, recently and continuously updated. Environmental information of other ministries is accessed through their official websites.

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/G RC¶

Formatted: Right

10. In addition, citizens have the possibility to submit, through the established line of communication with the citizens, their questions and comments on the issues of the MoEECC, in the MoEECC as well as in regional administration, almost every competent official is required to inform the public on the certain issues of his responsibility because due to the large scope of environmental information and the complexity and difficulty of the issues, expertise is needed. Another reason is the lack of sufficient staff. The examination of the information is taking place in the premises of the Public Authority where the information is held and can be accessed and photocopied. The National Network for Environmental Information (NNEI), established in the MoEECC, is an important action towards disseminating of environmental information (see below under art. 5, para. 1).

Deleted: established through the Web,

Deleted: under the MoE

Deleted: T

Deleted: MoE

An Investors Service for renewable energy sources (RES) projects recently created in the (MoEECC) aiming to strengthen and accelerate investment in renewable energy sources.

Formatted: English (U.K.)

Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4

11. In the framework of actions for environmental education (EE) and education for sustainable development (ESD), Greece is following the UNECE and UNESCO⁴ processes at a satisfactory level. Within these processes:

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

(a) A National Commission for ESD has been set up, which includes NGOs as well as museums, etc.;

(b) The Ministry of Education has set up a programme of action for the United Nations Decade of ESD (2005–2014), identifying focus issues for each year, and has invited NGOs to participate in the implementation of the programme;

(c) Collaboration of the MoEECC, with the Ministry of Education in the framework of ESD;

Deleted: MoE

Deleted: for National

(d) The MoEECC/former Central Water Agency, Special Secretariat of Water for implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, is undertaking the following support actions:

Deleted: MoE

(i) Establishment and operation of a related website;

(ii) Translation of the Water Framework Directive guidance documents;

(iii) Education of the competent authorities' personnel, public information and awareness (ongoing);

(e) With the support of the Ministry of Education's Operational Programme (EPEAEK, funded by the Community Structural Funds, the Cohesion Fund and national funds) and in coordination with the MoEECC, projects have been approved which focus on enhancing awareness, education, training and participation in decision-making bodies of protected areas. NGOs are running these projects and local civil society is a key target group, as are local administrative bodies;

Deleted: MoE

Formatted: English (U.K.)

⁴ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/GRC¶

Formatted: Portuguese (Brazil)

Deleted: MoE

(f) [MoEECC](#), supports awareness-raising efforts, giving priority to information, education and training programme issues;

(g) In the context of the Decade of ESD, the Ministry of Education formulated a National Strategy and the progress and evaluation indicators;

(h) During the period 2004-2007, 18,500 programmes of environmental education and 27000 programmes of health education took place in primary education; 19,000 programmes of environmental education and 18,000 programmes of health education took place in secondary education; 4,686 school programmes were financed by the EU through Aegean University; as were 380 financed school programmes on gender equality – RCGE and 820 financed interventional school programmes – by the National Youth Institute in cooperation with 6,000 schools;

(i) There are 35 national thematic networks, each one in 120 schools. Subjects coincide with all ESD activities;

(j) The training of 15,000 educators is in process, as well are teacher trainings;

(k) Periodical materials on sustainable development are being produced by Centres of Environmental Education (CEE);

(l) All academic years in the period 2005–2014 are denoted according to sustainability principles in the framework of the Decade of ESD;

(m) The Programmes of School Activities consist of a contemporary curriculum developed in the framework of either the school unit or environmental networks /collaborations of schools;

(n) A National Network of Centres of Environmental Education has been developed;

(o) 6,000 programmes of school awareness activities per year have been conducted;

(p) There are now national, regional and local thematic networks of school activities (e.g. biodiversity, energy, rivers);

(q) Production of educational material at the regional and local levels;

(r) Pilot regional programmes (schools for recycling);

(s) Cooperative activities with public sectors, universities, NGOs and local communities;

(t) The Mediterranean Information Office (MIO–ECSDE) has established the Circle of Mediterranean Journalists for Environment and Sustainable Development at the Mediterranean level;

(u) Press releases of the [MoEECC](#), on the occasion of the ratification of the Convention by the Parliament, as well as on the transposition of the relevant Directives 2003/4 and 2003/35 for the information of the public on its environmental rights, have been published in newspapers and also displayed on the official MoE website;

Deleted: MoE

(v) An information leaflet on Convention was published by the Athens Bar Association making available information to the public on its environmental rights under the Convention;

(w) A conference on the implementation of the Convention was held in 2007 on the initiative of the Hellenic Society for the Protection of the Environment and the Cultural Heritage in cooperation with the Athens Bar Association and the MoE, as well as representatives from the Council of State, the Ombudsman, the EU, and other stakeholders;

(x) A lot of workshops, seminars and presentations were organized, [at central and prefecture level](#) as well as publications and information leaflets were produced by the competent State bodies, for the information and awareness raising of the public and all interested parties on alternative waste management issues;

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/G
RC¶

Formatted: Right

Deleted: y

- (z) A law guide for the environment issued in 2009 by WWF Hellas and Greek Ombudsman available for the public and displayed on its websites, includes issues on access to information.

The provisions of Law 2742/1999 on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development (art. 4) involve NGOs in environmental decision-making within the National Council for Planning and Sustainable Development

- informing the public on urban planning through the public consultation

- the participation of MoEECC / Directorate of Spatial Planning in the information and awareness programs of the National Center for Public Administration.

(z) According to the opinion of an NGO and a member of the public, broader public information is necessary regarding the environmental rights provided by Convention, together with training lessons on environmental rights included in the school curricula in the framework of environmental education.

12. a MoEECC has set the initiative "Green Action-Clean Forests" urging the citizens to actively contribute into actions of voluntary service and simultaneously, encouraging local communities citizens and NGOs to develop co-operations, as well as to take initiatives for organising environmental actions, for the protection of Forests. With the motto "Green Action-Clean Forests", MoEECC in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, organized the cleaning of forests of the National Park of Schinia-Marathon in Attica (700 students, 41 teachers, 60 NGOs, 1300 attendees) and in forestall paths on the island of Skopelos (800 volunteers and students) (April / May 2010.)

Formatted: Bullets and
Numbering

b MoEECC participated in the 75th International Fair in Thessaloniki. (September 2010) The messages were "Innovation in clean technologies," Balance of nature, biodiversity, quality of life-sustainable city",.

c. A competition "AthinaCh4" that falls within the Programme ATHENS ATTICA 2014 for young architects.

Formatted: English (U.K.)

Formatted: English (U.K.)

d Development Intervention Program of the MoEECC for the period 2010 to 2015:

Among its four pillars is the Strengthening of mechanisms and institutions of environmental governance through a set of actions. The total investment budget is included under this pillar is the € 846,7 million and is expected to create more than 2,400 jobs.

e. A study entitled "Program reassessment 69 Important Bird Areas for their classification as Special Protection Areas for Birds." (August 2007) Development of action plans for the protection of priority species, with funding from the EPPER.. The purpose of this study was to update the ornithological and ecological data for 69 regions

f. The local port authorities in cooperation with local government, organize or assist existing network of volunteers from environmental organizations, cultural associations, federations, tourist associations, fishermen- scouts clubs, student clubs, etc. who participate in the Voluntary Cleanup of the coasts. Ministry of Civil protection (Directorate of Marine Environment Protection (DMEP) conducts training seminars of port authorities and regional pollution control plants in protecting the marine environment and new techniques for dealing with marine pollution incidents, Running since 2003 the interministerial pilot training volunteers program "protect myself and others". The program is implemented in cooperation

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/GRC¶

Formatted: Portuguese (Brazil)

[with municipalities and other stakeholders. A \(CD ROM\) entitled " Clean sea reflects our culture" distributed to all stakeholders.](#)

Article 3, paragraph 4

The implementation of Special Actions for supporting the NGOs in the field of the Environment is financed, with a total budget of €1 million in the framework of the Special Service for managing the Operational Programme Environment 2000–2006 (EPPER) and the Operational Programme Environment and Sustainable Development 2007–2013 (EPPERAA). In addition a special project on environmental awareness of the citizens is also financed, For EPPER, the relevant budget comes up to €2 million, and for EPPERAA the relevant budget is not yet defined.

Deleted: ¶
¶

In the same framework of EPPER 2000–2006, a special project on Publicity and Promotion is provided concerning the results from the implementation of the project with total budget €2 millions, while in EPPERAA the budget of the whole activity is estimated to rise up to €10 million for the period 2007–2013.

Deleted: ¶
¶

The implementation of the Operational Programmes of (EPPERAA is monitored regularly by an established Monitoring Committee, with approved Rules of Procedure, in which several representatives from competent bodies, civil society, and NGOs participate.

Deleted: ¶
¶

Formatted: English (U.K.)

In the framework of Operational Environmental Programmes (OEP) 2000–2006, funds have been bound for environmental awareness raising programmes, with a total budget of €2.8 million. Funds were made available to school units, classrooms or groups of teachers and students, in order to set up and complete environmental programmes. This has led to the founding of more than 200 registered non-governmental environmental and ecological organizations in Greece, whose members are often either teachers or former students who participated in one of the environmental education programmes during their schooling years.

Deleted: ¶
¶

Formatted: English (U.K.)

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

13. NGOs in Greece are very active in awareness-raising activities. According to the opinion of an NGO, they are supported less often by Greek funds and more often by direct EU funds: 22 projects were initiated by universities and scientific institutes in the framework of the Development Assistance Programme of the [MoEECC](#). These activities were implemented by 19 universities and 19 NGOs that were included in the Programme; the budget allocated to NGOs accounted for 45 per cent of the total budget. Projects implemented in the framework of the Programme were fully funded from Greek national funds. Moreover, Greece, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs supports, coordinates and assists NGOs and other agencies in the implementation of development programmes in accordance with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, with the focus on combating poverty.

Deleted: MoE

14. Since 2002, Greece has been the lead country of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI). MED EUWI also serves as a platform for promoting strategic partnerships between the EU and the Mediterranean and South-East European countries as well as between government, civil society and the private sector.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

15. NGOs are officially registered and recognized as partners in various ministries.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

16. In Greece, the general public and the NGOs can submit comments and proposals on environmental issues at the preliminary stages of the decision-making process [as well as public consultations](#).

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/G RC¶

Formatted: Right

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: .

17. The Ministry of Education collaborates with the public sector on a range of activities with local government and environmental NGOs to promote the principles of sustainable development in initiatives linked to academic years.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

18. According to the legislation for the protection and sustainable management of water resources in Greece (Law 3199/2003, art. 3, para. 6, and art. 6), which integrates the public participation requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the active involvement of interested parties is ensured through their representation to the National and Regional (in the 13 Regional Water Districts) Water Councils that are being developed as part of the administrative framework of the country. The National and the 13 Regional Water Councils are advisory boards in which all national and regional interested groups are represented, such as the involved organizations, NGOs, etc.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: new

Deleted: new

Deleted: The national Water Council has already been established by a decision of the Minister of the Environment

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

19. According to Laws 1650/86 and 2742/99, 27, Management Bodies were established in protected areas of Greece. The Administrational Councils of these bodies are composed by representatives of central, regional and local authorities, representatives of local stakeholders groups, researchers and NGOs. Management Bodies are supported by the Third Community Support Framework and national funds. Moreover, the Natura 2000 Committee (provided under Law 2742/1999) consists of representatives from ministries, universities and NGOs.

20. Actions for the management of protected species are undertaken in the framework of various projects. Major projects have been funded by the EC financial instrument, Life-Nature. National funds (e.g. the former ETERPS Fund of the MoEECC) have also been allocated. Major beneficiaries of these projects are research institutes, development companies and NGOs.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: MoE

21. [Representatives from academic sector, NGOs and private sector can be invited in the meetings of the Hellenic Interministerial Committee for GPP recently established, thus obtaining commitment on the collaborative design and implementation of the GPP NAP from both the public, and private sector as well as NGOs and academic networks](#).

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Formatted: English (U.K.)

22. [Establishment of National rural network which aims at exchanging information and networking between agencies dealing with rural development and includes as members of the Network Environmental Organisations \(WWF\). Establishment of the Monitoring Committee of the Rural Development program, also involving environmental organizations. Participation in consultation processes in preparation of action of all actors involved \(Prefectural governments, environmental organizations, cooperatives, producer organizations, etc.\)](#)

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

23. Projects mainly aimed at the implementation of nature conservation actions have been financed also from a national funding instrument which incorporates a percentage of the money coming from the tax for gas. Through this instrument (former ETERPS Fund),

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

approximately €7.5 million (from national funds) were allocated for the period 2000–2007, including for the programme “Voluntarism and Environmental Protection” (total of €1 million) and the Programme on Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development. The MoEECC, has drawn up the Register of Environmental NGOs. In total, around 260 environmental NGOs were inventoried in mid 2007 nationwide by the Environmental Team of the Institute of Urban and Rural Sociology of the National Centre for Social Research” (<http://www.ekke.gr/estia/>) under a project financed by the MoE.

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/GRC¶

Formatted: Portuguese (Brazil)

Deleted: Moreover, t

Deleted: Ministry

24. In Greece, there is not one single entity responsible for registering and inventorying NGOs active both on general as well as on environmental matters. Apart from the above inventory, registries are also kept by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for different purposes. In addition, MoEECC, has also inventoried the environmental NGOs which it has funded over the years, either with core funding or for the implementation of specific projects following a certain call. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the other hand, and in particular its Service for the Implementation of the Development Assistance and Cooperation Programme of Greece (the so-called Hellenic Aid Service) has been inventorying (since 2000) NGOs active in all fields (e.g. medicine, humanitarian, environment, education) that fulfil certain “quality” criteria and are thus eligible to receive State funding to implement, as intermediaries, development aid and cooperation projects in third/developing/recipient countries.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: MoE

Article 3, paragraph 7

25. Greece promotes the Convention’s principles of transparency, access to information and public participation in international forums, international environmental negotiations and decision-making processes. The MoEECC, as well as other ministries invite NGO representatives to participate as experts in international meetings. Those representatives have as far as possible been included in Greek delegations as expert members, for which their travel expenses have been partially or fully reimbursed. NGOs can also participate, upon invitation, in national preparatory meetings for international meetings.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: MoE

26. Greece, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs supports, coordinates and assists NGOs and other agencies in the implementation of development programmes, in accordance with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, with the focus on combating poverty. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through YDAS-2 (Rehabilitation and Development Directorate), handles Greece’s relations with the OECD Development Assistance Committee, participating in its working groups and networks as well as in the Ministerial Councils

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

27. NGOs were invited by the MoE to participate in the preparation of an environmental performance review, under the auspices of OECD (2007–2008).

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

28. Greece has been the lead country of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI), which since 2002 has served as a platform for promoting strategic partnerships between the EU and the Mediterranean countries as well as

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/G
RC¶

Formatted: Right

between government, civil society and the private sector. One key recent development is the initiation of the “Country Policy Dialogues” on water for Mediterranean non-EU partner countries.

29. The partner countries of the Development Assistance Programme of MoEECC belonged to the wider geographic subregion of South-Eastern Europe, and activities were implemented by NGOs and Universities which covered, inter alia, capacity-building as well as environmental information and awareness, training and education on environment and sustainable development. The actions and projects selected for funding were characterized by applicability, sustainability, perspective of actions and transferability, as well as accountability and transparency of all activities.

Formatted: Bullets and
Numbering

Deleted: MoE

30. Greece participated in the following meetings:

Formatted: Bullets and
Numbering

(a) The High-level International Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries in Vilnius (17–18 October 2005) promoting environmental education, ESD and environmental awareness;

(b) The Sixth Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” (Belgrade, 10–12 October 2007).

31. Greece participates in the following projects:

Formatted: Bullets and
Numbering

(a) The Project of Associated Schools; in cooperation with the lead agency, UNESCO⁵: programmes have been implemented within the framework of the Decade of ESD by 20 of the 80 schools participating in the network

(b) The South-Eastern Mediterranean Environmental Project (SEMPEP), a network of 40 schools. It began as programme of environmental education.

(c) The official launching in Athens of the United Nations Decade of ESD in the Mediterranean Area (2005), where the Convention’s principles were mentioned by the MoEECC

The Marine Environment Protection Directorate provides constant information to the institutions of the Greek shipping industry and other specialized institutions, shipping center operators eg ELKETHE about international forums and meetings for the environment to give them the possibility to participate.

Deleted: MoE.

Deleted: ¶

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0.63
cmFormatted: Bullets and
Numbering

Formatted: Font: Bold

32. The contribution of Greece to tsunami relief in South-East Asia, the development and humanitarian assistance offered by Greek State agencies and the ever-expanding presence of civil society in international assistance projects show that the awareness of Greek public opinion has indeed been raised and that the view has taken root that our country must participate and assist countries that face natural disasters. Greece supports such initiatives and is participating in the discussions already taking place within the

Formatted: Bullets and
Numbering

⁵ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

United Nations framework with interventions intended to increase transparency and enhance the United Nations monitoring systems, while making its actions more effective.

33. **The Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative** In October 2010 the Greek Government presented the launch of the Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative in collaboration with leaders from across the Mediterranean and with the support of the European Investment Bank. It aims to accelerate the region's responses to the impacts of climate change and lead by example the transition to a low carbon development model.

34. **During** the Hellenic Chairmanship of the Human Security Network⁶ (HSN) (May 2007-May 2008) Greece chose to focus its activities on the human security implications of climate change in developing countries. The objective of the Hellenic Chairmanship was to raise awareness on the impact that changing living conditions, as a result of climate change, can have on peoples' security in developing countries, with a special emphasis on three specifically vulnerable groups, namely women, children and populations fleeing their homes as a result of climate change. Seeking to actively contribute to the international dialogue for adequate policy planning to confront climate change implications on human security, the Hellenic Chairmanship proceeded, in co-operation with competent International Organizations, to the elaboration of a number of relevant policy texts. The main findings and policy proposals of these papers were presented at a High-Level International Conference (Athens, May 2008) concluding the works of the Hellenic HSN Chairmanship.

35. Many awareness raising events on environmental issues organized by Ministry of Foreign Affairs. from end 2008 to 2010.

36. Cooperation between Greece and nine European countries for the prevention and monitoring of forest fires promoted by the **MoEECC**, which participated in the program entitled «European Forest Fire Monitoring using Information Systems - EFFMIS».

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/GRC¶

Formatted: Portuguese (Brazil)

Deleted: ¶

Formatted: Font: Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Dutch (Netherlands)

Formatted: Font: Bold, Font color: Indigo, English (U.S.)

Formatted: Font: Bold, Font color: Auto, English (U.K.)

Article 3, paragraph 8

37. There is a complete legal framework in Greece, as already mentioned, ensuring the exercise of the rights of the persons under the Convention. The right of access to information, is provided and guaranteed by the Constitution as well as by the Administrative Procedure Code.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

(a) According to Article 461 of the Constitution all Greek citizens are equal before the law. Citizens have also the constitutional right of previous hearing. Articles 4 to 25 of the Constitution provide for the protection of human rights, including the free development of one's personality and recognition of the value of human dignity;

⁶ The Human Security Network (HSN) is an informal international forum in co-operation with international organizations, civil society and the academia, aiming at raising awareness at the international level regarding new forms of threats that endanger human security. Member states of the HSN include: Canada, Norway, Switzerland, Ireland, Austria, Slovenia, Jordan, Mali, Chile, Costa Rica, Thailand, as well as South Africa with observer status.

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/G RC¶

Formatted: Right

(b) Every act of the State must be in conformity with the law and must also be provided for by a law. According to the opinion of one NGO, the environmental NGOs can be critical of governmental actions, decisions, etc. without repercussions (if there is a real basis for criticism);

(c) The citizens, in the framework of their protection, have several possibilities for administrative and judicial review as well as actions for compensation according to the civil liability provisions (see art. 9).

IV. OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 3

38. The obstacles and problems identified and stated by the involved public authorities are:

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

- (a) An inflexible timetable, which does not facilitate a relationship between school and society through active learning;
- (b) Incomplete training of educators;
- (c) The non-existence of up-to-date relevant educational materials;
- (d) The non-existence of institutional framework of cooperation with NGOs;
- (e) Activities of educators and students are on a voluntary basis (a single-digit number percentage of educators and students participate in programmes);
- (f) Little (insufficient) financial support in the framework of environmental education;
- (g) The implementation of the Convention is a major task demanding the collaboration of several ministries and sectors as well as the regions, prefectures and local government;
- (h) Lack of sufficient resources;
- (i) According to the opinion of one NGO, there is no apparent link between issues relating to access to justice and environmental issues in school curricula. However, it is not yet clear what these links should be. Through ESD, the development of critical thinking of students could be interpreted indirectly as serving this purpose.

V. FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE GENERAL PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 3

39. No information was provided under this heading.

VI. WEBSITE ADDRESSES RELEVANT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 3

<http://www.ypeka.gr>, <http://www.mfa.gr>, <http://www.yen.gr>, <http://www.ypepth.gr>,
www.remth.gr, <http://www.medies.net>, www.epperaa.gr,
<http://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/index.php?obj=4c177c316a3ccb>,
<http://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/index.php?obj=4c1776c316a3cch>, [http://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/index.php?obj=f37198c7cdaff10d\(INFODESK\)](http://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/index.php?obj=f37198c7cdaff10d(INFODESK))

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: , www.mfa.gr, www.yen.gr, www.ypepth.gr, www.medies.net.

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Dutch (Netherlands)

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Dutch (Netherlands)

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Dutch (Netherlands)

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Field Code Changed

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Formatted: Font: Not Bold

Field Code Changed

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/GRC¶

Formatted: Portuguese (Brazil)

VII. LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND OTHER MEASURES IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS ON ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION IN ARTICLE 4

Relevant definitions

40. Concerning relevant definitions in article 2 and the non discrimination requirement in article 3, see information under article 5 of the Convention.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

41. No particular difficulties concerning the definitions in article 2 and the interpretation and management of the definition “environmental information” were met. Limited difficulties identified in some cases such as the required annual balance sheet of a legal person performing public administrative functions under national law and some difficulties raised concerning the exceptions and in particular the identification of confidentiality of industrial information.

Deleted: ¶

Formatted: Font: 12 pt, English (U.S.)

Article 4, paragraph 1

42. According to Law 3422/12-12-2005(OJG A 303/2005), public authorities, in response to a request of environmental information, make such information available to the public including where requested copies of the actual documentation containing or comprising such information. Article 7 of the JMD 11764/653/2006 also stipulates that public authorities provide copies of the actual documentation upon request and some exceptions are provided concerning the form or format of the required information (see under art. 4, para. 1 (b); art. 5 of the Administrative Procedure Code, referring to access to documents (OJG A45/9-3-1999), provides and regulates similar issues). Upon application, the Special Environmental Service and the other competent departments provide in due time the information requested concerning official documents or other documentation concerning the files on environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic impact assessment (SEA) submitted to it, as soon as the public participation process has begun. No internal consultation document concerning open judicial procedures is provided.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Article 4, paragraph 1 (a)

43. In Greece, access to environmental information of any person without having to state an interest, is provided first of all under law 3422/12-12-2005 (OJG A 303/2005). Access to environmental information of any person without having to state an interest is also ensured in article 3, paragraph 1, of JMD 11764/653/2006 (OJG B 327/17-3-2006). According to this article of the above JMD, every natural or legal person can access environmental information by submitting a relevant written request without having to state an interest. The written request enters the public authority’s register (protocol) under a certain number and a registration receipt is given to the applicant.

Formatted: English (U.K.)

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Public Authorities in their majority make available environmental information held by or for them to any applicant at his request .However due to lack of staff and work overload the deadlines set by law are not always met. As a main problem and obstacle is reported lack of human and other resources (staff and funding). If a request is formulated in a too general

manner, the public authority asks and assist the applicant to a possible degree to specify the request .

If the information requested is not held by or for the public authority to which the request is addressed , the public authority transfers the request to the competent authority usually but not always within 3 days due to limited human resources and informs the applicant accordingly.

As reported by some competent authorities in any case requested by the public information (eg on fisheries management measures.) either provided to the citizen all details of official Journal of Government (OJG)with relevant legislation to be able to find it in the National Printing Office and its official website or provided the document in printed form.

As reported by some regional authorities priority is given to access to environmental information requested in writing or orally at any hour of the operation of the Authority. In that case processed information is not provided immediately but only information for the creation of activities and projects and the approval of environmental conditions of the above activities and projects

Deleted: ¶

Formatted: Bullets and
Numbering

44. According to the Constitution (Article 10), the competent service or authority is obliged to reply to requests for information and for issuing documents (see art. 3). According to article 5, paragraph 1, of Law 2690/1999 regarding the Administrative Procedure Code, every interested person is entitled to access to administrative documents by submitting a relevant request. A special interest is required only for access to private documents held by public authorities, on matter concerning the applicant (art. 5, para. 2, of law 2690/1999). Finally, Directive 2003/98/EC on the further use of public sector information has been incorporated into the Greek legislation by law 3448/2006, providing the right for further use by persons or legal entities of documents held by public sector bodies, for commercial or non-commercial purposes other than the initial purpose for which the documents were originally produced.

Article 4, paragraph 1 (b)

Deleted: -----Page Break-----

45. Taking into account those referred in the above point (under art. 4, para. 1) and according to article 4, paragraph. 1 (b), subparagraphs (i) and (ii), of the Convention ratified by law 3422/2005 and article 3, paragraph 7, of the JMD 11764/653/2006, the form or format of the information is supplied as follows: where an applicant requests a public authority to make environmental information available in a specific form or format (including in the form of copies),the public authority makes it available unless it is already publicly available in another form or format which is easily accessible by applicants. Further details on the above issue are regulated under the above JMD (art. 3, para. 7).

Formatted: Bullets and
Numbering

Article 4, paragraph 2

Legislation and Information provided under this Article, remain the same as it is in the Report of the previous reporting cycle.

Article 4, paragraphs 3 and 4

Legislation and Information provided under this Article, remain the same as it is in the Report of the previous reporting cycle.

Article 4, paragraph 5

Legislation and Information provided under this Article, remain the same as it is in the Report of the previous reporting cycle.

Article 4, paragraph 6

Legislation and Information provided under this Article, remain the same as it is in the Report of the previous reporting cycle.

Article 4, paragraph 7

Legislation and Information provided under this Article, remain the same as it is in the Report of the previous reporting cycle.

Article 4, paragraph 8

Legislation and Information provided under this Article, remain the same as it is in the Report of the previous reporting cycle.

VIII. OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 4

46. The obstacles and problems identified by the involved public authorities are:

- (a) Lack of resources (staff, funds for copies etc.);
 - (b) Administrative burden due to lack of staff and because in some cases request is general or unreasonable and officials ask and assist the applicant to specify the request or submit documentation with more details;
 - (c) In many cases, due to the complexity and a volume of the requested information, a collaboration with other authorities is required which is time consuming;
 - (d) Administration usually informs the applicant within the time limits mentioned above: However due to lack of human resources and work overload, a possible excess of the provided time limits by the public authorities is stated as a possible obstacle in the implementation of this article.
- The obstacles and problems identified and stated by the involved public authorities are

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/GRC¶

Formatted: Portuguese (Brazil)

Deleted: <#>The time limits of article 4, paragraph 2, of the Convention are met by Law 3422/2005. The environmental information is made available as soon as possible and at the latest within one month after the request has been submitted, unless the volume and the complexity of the information justify an extension of this period up to two months.¶

¶

<#>In addition, the aforementioned time limits of the Convention are fully met (more strictly) by article 3, paragraph 3, of the JMD 11764/653/2006. More specifically public authorities, with regard to any timescale specified by the applicant, make available environmental information held by or for them to any applicant at his request, at the latest within 20 days after the receipt of the request by the public authority or within two months after the receipt of the request if the volume and the complexity of the information is such that the 20-day period cannot be complied with.¶

¶

<#>In addition, law 2690/1999, the Administrative Procedure Code (OJG A45/9-3-1999), stipulates also in article 4 relevant time limits for public authorities (60 days at the latest) and in article 5 a one-month time limit after the receipt of the request for informing the applicant of any rejection of his request. Additionally, according to the Constitution the competent authority is obliged to reply to requests for information and for issuing documents, especially certificates, supp[... [38]

Deleted: <#>Public authorities may refuse a request for accessing to environmental [... [39]

Deleted: ¶

Deleted: <#>According to article 3, paragraph 4, of JMD 11764/653/2006, if the infor[... [40]

Deleted: According to article 4, paragraph 5, of JMD 11764/653/2006, environmen[... [41]

Formatted: English (U.K.)

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: -----Page Break-----

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: According to Law 3422/2005, the refusal is made as soon as possible and [... [42]

Formatted: Font: Bold, English (U.K.)

Deleted: According to article 5 of JMD 11764/653/2006, access to any public r[... [43]

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: In many cases, requests are general or unreasonable, and the administration[... [44]

Deleted: The a

Deleted: dministration must inform the applicant within the time limits mentio[... [45]

Deleted: A

(e) Limited difficulties concerning the interpretation and management of the definition "environmental information" identified in some cases such as the required annual balance sheet of a legal person performing public administrative functions under national law and some difficulties raised concerning the exceptions and in particular the identification of confidentiality of industrial information.

(f) Some authorities noticed that no record is kept in groups of related activities to be monitored systematically.

(g) By some prefecture authorities is reported lack of material and technical infrastructure (lack of storage for studies, lack of computers and related programs for creating databases), lack of electronic filing, increased volume of work and documents for distribution (at prefecture level there is a requirement for conducting environmental audits), lack of communication between the Ministry and Regional Services, Lack of staff training

(h) According to Ombudsman the main problems of effective implementation of the principles of the Aarhus Convention due in principle to non suitable infrastructure of these services to facilitate public access to environmental information

(i) By some prefecture authorities is reported as the main obstacle the time required to provide environmental information to citizens and the complexity of the responsibilities of the Authority mainly focused on the environmental licensing of projects and activities. In most cases information is given orally or by telephone contact and therefore requests are not recorded.

(j) By an NGO is reported that the response of the authorities services is better, the more "senior" are, and as close to the subject of the environment. Problems enlarge when someone seeks environmental information in services with another principal object, and away from the center [eg, a Municipality]. However, it is reported that environmental services are relatively well-acquainted with the Aarhus Convention, although delays [the workload, etc.] is a problem. A major problem also creates the distance in some areas - for example, to find an EIS, to travel by the seat of the county, and photocopying a copy in case there is lack of electronic databases of environmental information.

IX. FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 4

Most departments do not have available statistical data. A few can provide such statistical information upon request. Hellenic Ombudsman has received a numerous public complaints and petitions concerning denial to access to environmental information affecting almost all authorities responsible for environmental or planning authorization (licensing) of both the Central Administration and Local Government eg. Directorates of Environment and Planning, Directorates of Development, of Prefectures and Regions, headquarters of Ministries, Urban municipalities and Regions and supervised institutions of MoEECC. The investigation of these petitions, according to Ombudsman indicates that the main problems of effective

implementation of the principles of the Aarhus Convention due in principle to non suitable infrastructure of these services to facilitate public access to environmental information.

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/GRC¶
Formatted: Portuguese (Brazil)
Formatted: English (U.K.)

By an NGO it was reported that it is important to know what is the number of petitions received by the central and regional government on environmental information all over Greece as well as the number of requests for environmental information received by the central and decentralized government all over Greece and its content, but most departments do not have available statistical data and only a few departments can provide such statistical information upon request.

Deleted: ¶

WEBSITE ADDRESSES RELEVANT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 4

Deleted:Page Break.....

47. <http://et.diavgeia.gov.gr> , www.minagric.gr , www.ypeka.gr , www.ggb.gr , www.agrotikianaptixi.gr

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering
Deleted: www.minenv.gr

XI. LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND OTHER MEASURES IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS ON THE COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION IN ARTICLE 5

48. Law 3422/2005 provides for collection and dissemination of environmental information. In addition, article 7 of JMD 11764/653/2006 (OJG B 327/17-3-2006), which transposed Directive 2003/4/EC, also regulates the dissemination of environmental information through electronic databases and public telecommunication networks.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

49. The relevant definitions in article 2 and the non-discrimination requirement in article 3 of the Convention are described and met by Law 3422/2005, by which the Convention was ratified. The above article 2 definitions of the Convention are also met in article 2 of JMD 11764/653/2006, which transposed Directive 2003/4/EC.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

50. In addition, according to Article 4, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, of Constitution (1975/1986/2001), all Greeks are equal before the law. Greek men and women have equal rights and equal obligations. All persons possessing the qualifications for citizenship as specified by law are Greek citizens. Article 5 (a) paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Constitution also states that all persons are entitled to information, as specified by law and all persons are entitled to participate in the Information Society. In addition, law 3304/2005 on the “implementing of the principle of equal treatment regardless of racial or ethnic origin, religious or other beliefs, disability, age or sexual orientation” constitutes a landmark in the promotion of the principle of equality and the protection of human rights in Greece. By this law, two EU Directives were transposed into the Greek legislation: EC Directives 2000/78 and 2000/43 “for the promotion of the principle of equal treatment and the fight against discrimination on grounds of race, nationality, religion or belief, disability, age, sexual orientation”.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

51. There are also two bodies in Greece with similar responsibilities both assigned with combating discrimination in the private sector: the Labour Inspectorate (SEPE), whose competence covers ordinary employment contracts, and the Equal Treatment Committee

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/G RC¶
Formatted: Right

(ETC) of the Ministry of Justice, whose competence covers the rest of the private sector. The General Secretariat for Equality of the Ministry of the Interior also plays an important role in the implementation of the principle of equal treatment and the gender equality. At the same time, a Permanent Committee on Equality and on Human Rights as well as a Permanent Committee on Institutions and on Transparency operate in the Greek Parliament.

Article 5, paragraph 1

Deleted: -----Page Break-----

Article 5, paragraph 1 (a)

MoEECC operates the following monitoring systems to assure the production and update of environmental data for the following environmental sectors: air quality, air emissions, water quality and quantity, industry, emissions from stationary combustion sources installations and vehicles, fuel, waste, noise and Ozone Depleting Substances.

Deleted: MoE

Deleted: and

Deleted: .

52.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Monitoring Main and Inventory activities
Air-quality monitoring
Water quality, water quantity and ecological status monitoring
Air emissions monitoring (main industrial installations emissions)
Combustion and fuel monitoring programmes
Inventory of local and waste management authorities reporting on waste quantities, treatment and management
Noise monitoring
Environmental inspectorate monitoring
Air emissions trade registry
<u>Ozone Depleting Substances</u>

Formatted: Greek

Datasets
Water quality, water quantity and ecological status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River basins • Wastewater treatment plants
Air quality
Air emissions
Industries and other installations
Combustion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stationary combustion sources installations • Vehicles
Nature and biodiversity NATURA 2000 network Habitat types within NATURA 2000
Noise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise measurements from motorcycles • In situ measurements of noise from installations • Measurements from noise control stations • Noise barriers and implementation bodies

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/GRC¶
Formatted: Portuguese (Brazil)

Environmental impact assessments
Waste
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste generation sources • Waste treatment and final disposal installations • Hazardous waste • Municipal waste • Register of waste management bodies
CORINE land cover

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0.55 cm, Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 1.26 cm + Tab after: 1.9 cm + Indent at: 1.9 cm, Tabs: Not at 1.9 cm

Formatted: English (U.K.)

Deleted: Network for

Deleted: is an important action towards this direction. It comprises a

Deleted: is

Deleted: ¶
<#>¶

A new project is promoted today under the EC Structural Funds for the modernization and extension of the network in order to become Web-based and to involve more environmental organizations as active users and more external interested people and organizations as viewers. Most of the data of the system will be available to the public. It will also include spatial data and services providing support for responding with environmental data to the INSPIRE Directive. The content of the system comprises the main environmental topic areas where the MoE collects data (air, water, natural environment, wastes, combustion, fuels, industry, noise, EIA) studies and areas such as waste recycling, ozone-depleting substances, physical planning, etc.). A new functionality will be added, based on Internet technologies, to facilitate and encourage electronic submission of EIA studies which will also provide more visibility on this area.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: ¶
The system will also include functional[... [46]

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: sm.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: alarm phase

Deleted: With respect to f

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Formatted: Font: Bold

Formatted: Font: Bold

Deleted: ,

Deleted: a

Deleted: the new

Deleted: which is a

Deleted: EU

Deleted: With respect to f

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Formatted: Font: Bold

Formatted: Font: Bold

Deleted: ,

Article 5, paragraph 1 (b)

53. The National Environmental Information Network is an horizontal mechanism for the collection and dissemination of data, through the Internet or an intranet, in relation to the main environmental sectors (air, water, nature, waste, emissions, legislation). It comprises a national repository of environmental data and a mechanism for exchanging data between relevant environmental administrative services as well as for providing data to the public.

59. The project for the modernization and extension of the network was completed earlier this year under the E.C. Structural Funds. The system is now Web based involving more environmental organizations as active users and more external interested people and organisations as viewers. A big part of the data of the system is available to the public. It also includes spatial data and services providing support for responding with environmental data to the INSPIRE Directive. The content of the System concerns the main environmental topic areas where the MoEECC collects data (air, water, natural environment, wastes, Combustion, Fuels, Industry, Noise, environmental impact assessment studies and areas like waste recycling, Ozon Depleting Substances, Physical Planning, etc.). A new functionality has been added based on INTERNET technologies to facilitate and encourage electronic submission of Environmental Impact Assessment studies which will also provide more visibility on this area.

The system also includes functionalities for supporting national EIONET communication as well as for operating the Clearing House Mechanism for the Aarhus Convention.(completed)

Article 5, paragraph 1 (c)

54. In case of an air pollution episode, information on the evolution will be disseminated on an hourly basis through the Internet, radio and TV messages, and implementation of relevant measures (directions to people affected etc).

55. Flood protection and prevention: According to Law on water (3199/2003), transposition into national law of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the 13 Regional Water Directorates are the competent authorities for taking the appropriate measures for flood mitigation on a river basin basis.

56. Forecasting and early warning: this issue is handled in Greece by several operational centres. Comprehensive activities and plans that have been undertaken in the field of early warning and forecasting include:

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/GRC¶
Formatted: Right

- (a) Traditional measuring instruments, radar and numerical weather forecasts;
- (b) Identification and mapping of high-risk areas through the National Bank of Hydrological and Meteorological Information, a data bank in which all the hydrological and meteorological data measured during the last 100 years have been collected and elaborated, using the most up-to-date computer science and telecommunications;
- (c) Development of an effective and reliable early-warning and forecasting system, supported by meteorological information, to inform, at the respective level, flood authorities and citizens in threatened areas;
- (d) A national emergency plan for civil protection (XENOKRATIS), covering the emergency management before, during and after the flood events.
- (e) Measures linked to public information and awareness-raising: information for the general public through the media (TV, leaflets, posters, the Internet, etc.) on possible flooding events because of forecasted heavy rains and thunderstorms and on self-protection instructions.

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Not Italic, English (U.K.)
Formatted: Font: Not Italic, English (U.K.)
Formatted: Font: Not Bold, Not Italic, English (U.K.)
Formatted: Font: Not Bold, English (U.K.)
Formatted: English (U.K.)
Formatted: Indent: Left: 0.63 cm
Formatted: Font: Not Italic
Formatted: English (U.K.)
Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

(f) In cases endangering the health of the general public relating to fishery products for which the Competent Authority is aware, then subsequently informed in writing all competent Prefectural Fisheries Services, Veterinary Medicine and Public Health Services as well as the fishing operators in the region,

(g) Monitoring and protection of bathing waters and the marine environment .

Deleted: es
Formatted: Bullets and Numbering
Deleted: minenv
Deleted: including the maximum
Deleted: Tri

Article 5, paragraph 2

57. Concerning air quality in the city of Athens, an online system is regularly providing information on the measurement values of a series of pollutants, as well as on pollutants exceeding basic standards and potential announced measures.

58. Public information is distributed in the following ways:

- (a) By fixed phone message (tel. Nr. 1448, three messages per day);
- (b) Through the Internet (www.ypeka.gr) in Greek and English on daily basis:
 - (i) Analytical description of the air quality situation, max and average pollutant values for the present day and the previous one;
 - (ii) Extended presentation of ozone exceedance;
 - (iii) 3-monthly and yearly reports.

Deleted: With respect to air pollution alarm phases, see information provided under article 5, paragraph 1 (c) of the Convention
Formatted: Bullets and Numbering
Deleted: <#>National Reports on the state of the water environment (art. 5 and annexes II and III of the Water Framework Directive) as well as any information related to the implementation of water-related EU legislation are or will be available to the public. A related website, being developed by the Central Water Agency, will serve as an active information and discussion forum. It will include national reports and any other related documentation or information (data, maps, etc.). Furthermore, several workshops are or will be organized at the regional or national levels. ¶

59.

Article 5, paragraph 3

60. On the above environmental areas, MoEECC, has established relevant databases with data from the respective monitoring systems and registers as well as information on relevant activities, plans, measures, institutional structure etc. Part of the above is being

Formatted: English (U.K.)
Deleted: <#>¶
Formatted: English (U.K.)
Deleted: MoE

displayed on the [MoEECC](#) website. The final objective is to gradually include all necessary data and information.

(a) **National Environmental Information Network.** It is a national repository of environmental data and a mechanism for exchanging data between relevant environmental administrative services as well as for providing data to the public.

(b) **National Data Bank of Hydrological and Meteorological Information:** (www.hydroscope.gr) It is a distributed database and a wide area network for exchanging and disseminating hydrological and meteorological information produced by relevant organizations belonging to the network. The bank includes data measured during the last 100 years that have been collected and elaborated, using the most updated computer science and telecommunications. A new project is on going today under the EC Cohesion Funds which will upgrade and update the database with more recent information and relevant analysis and assessments. The system also provides information to the Internet;

(c) Communication tools used to convey environmental information to a non expert audience and to high level decision makers (e.g. Web-based tools, user-friendly brochures, aggregated indices, etc.);

(d) **Specific website**, in the framework of **the implementation of alternative management of packaging and other waste (law 2939/2001)**, linked directly with the [Internet](#) homepage [of MoEECC](#), provides environmental information in respect to alternative management (recovery and recycling) of packaging waste, emissions limit values (ELVs), used tires, waste oil, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE), batteries and accumulators, and construction and demolition waste;

(e) **Aarhus Clearinghouse Mechanism**, in the framework of the implementation of the National Environmental Information Network ([completed](#)).

(f) Participation to the European Environment Agency's ([EEA](#)) ozone-related website, with data from Athens City;

(f) **Electronic tool** to facilitate the application of the European Waste Catalogue. The tool will be accessible on the [website of the MoEECC \(under development\)](#);

(g) **Clearing House Mechanism on Biodiversity**, bringing together seekers and providers of environmental information and contributing to making environmental information and data flows available to the public;

(h) A website is under development by the [former C.W.A. \(now Special Secretariat of Water\)](#) which will serve as an active information and discussion forum in the framework of actions supporting Water Framework Directive implementation. It will include national reports and any other related documentation or information (e.g. data maps).

(i) **The Investor Service for RES projects includes in the register any decision of licensing production electricity from renewable energy issued by the Regulatory Authority for Energy (RAE) after completion of review of such decisions. (Law 3851/2010 (art.2 para 2).**

(j) [Geodata.gov.gr](#) is an initiative facilitating open access to the Greek government's geospatial data. The website provides users the opportunity to search and download statistical and geographical information.

(k) **National Geospatial Information Infrastructure (Law 3882/2010 transposition of Directive 2007/2/EC (Inspire) of the European Parliament and Council of March 14, 2007 and other provisions. (GG A/166/22.09.2010).**

- Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/GRC¶
- Formatted: Portuguese (Brazil)
- Deleted: MoE
- Deleted: . Furthermore, concerning the monitoring of the implementation of the legislation, a positive step taken by Mo[... [47]
- Deleted: The following should be noted:¶
- Deleted: The
- Deleted: , which
- Formatted: Font: Bold
- Deleted: (see information provided u[... [48]
- Deleted: The
- Formatted: Font: Bold
- Formatted: Font: Bold
- Deleted: ,
- Formatted: Font: Bold
- Deleted: which
- Deleted: currently being developed
- Deleted: A s
- Formatted: Font: Bold
- Formatted: Font: Bold
- Deleted: MoE
- Deleted: which
- Deleted: with
- Deleted:) A website for establishing the
- Formatted: Font: Bold
- Deleted: planned
- Formatted: Indent: First line: 0 cm
- Deleted: In the framework of support[... [49]
- Deleted: (h) Presentation on the Inter[... [50]
- Deleted: i
- Deleted: Development of an
- Deleted: e
- Deleted: MoE
- Deleted: ongoing
- Deleted: j
- Deleted: The
- Formatted: Font: Bold
- Deleted: k
- Deleted: related
- Deleted: entral
- Deleted: ater
- Deleted: gency
- Formatted: Font: Not Italic
- Formatted: Font: Not Italic

(l).MoMAIF is creating an information system (website) that gives details on all applications for permits relating to the introduction of alien or locally absent species in accordance with the Regulation (EC) 535/2008 (under development)

(m) **National Information System for Energy:(NISE).**The purpose of NISE of (MoEECC) is to develop infrastructure for energy information services to the public and the creation of a tool to support decision making on Energy Policy and Planning.**The main sections of NISE**.include:related to energy agencies, legislation, standards.. It comprises of : a) **A database descriptive information** b.)**A geographic Information System (GIS)**and c) **A Database Statistical information.**

(n) On the official site www.epperaa.gr published the Operational Programmes EPPER and EPPERAA, (Operational Programme for Environment and Operational Programme for Environment and Sustainable development), annual reports, invitations , notices announcements as well as environmental legislation.

(o)The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (directorate YDAS-2,) handles Greece's relations with the OECD Development Assistance Committee. It maintains the official statistical database on development assistance provided by Greece and sends detailed statistical data to the Development Assistance Committee, in fulfilment of the country's obligation. YDAS-2 also draws up the Annual YDAS Report, which is submitted to the Parliament, as well as other publications, such as Greece's *Contribution Towards Attaining the Millennium Development Goals.*

p) Program "Diavgeia"(Clarity)enhancing transparency through mandatory display on the internet and disclosure of decisions and acts of administration. (Law 3861/2010 GG 112/13.7.2010 Issue A)

Article 5, paragraph 4

61.

Regular posting on the official site of the MoEECC (www.ypeka.gr) and in Aarhus Clearing House Mechanism of various Reports submitted to E.C. following relevant reporting obligations, on the basis of respective national laws. (EC Directives transposed in the Greek legislation, ratified international environmental Conventions and multilateral agreements).

The national state-of-the-environment report (2008completed) posted on the official site of the National Center of Environment and Sustainable Development.(www.ekpaa.gr)

62. The daily Report **on Air Pollution Levels** indicates the air pollution as reported by the Ministry's measuring stations in Attica and Oenofita (Boeotia prefecture). Information is also given in case of exceedance of the Public Information and Alarm levels. Athens Air pollution daily report available also on the INTERNET. Annual Report on "Air Pollution in Athens-2006" available also on the INTERNET. Published the report "Air Pollution in Athens-2009" -- --

A planned project "on evaluation of environmental noise", will produce noise maps of Athens Municipality (Competition will be launched early 2011). A Project for mapping of noise in the Airport, of Athens and relevant action plans. (completed) Under Directive 2002/49 on the evaluation and management of environmental noise 13 new competitions will be launched in 2011 (5 competitions for the region, 6 for Athens and 2 for Thessaloniki)

Deleted: ¶

¶ An overview of current and planned activities, initiatives and events includes:¶

¶ In the framework of implementation of EC Directive 2002/49:¶

- (i) . A planned project on evaluation of environmental noise, which will produce noise maps of Athens Municipality (implementation in 2008);¶
- (ii) . An ongoing project for mapping of noise from of Athens Airport, and relevant action plans.¶
- (b) . A survey on packaging sector and packaging waste – development of a database (completed in 2007);¶
- (c) . A survey on electric and electronic equipment sector and waste of electric and electronic equipment – Report and database development (ongoing);¶
- (d) . A survey on construction and demolition sector and construction and demolition waste produced in Greece – Report and database development (ongoing);¶
- (e) . An inventory of the uncontrolled dumpsites in Greece – report and database development (completed in 2005);¶
- (f) . A national hazardous waste management plan (JMD 8668/2007 (OJG 287/B/2-3-2007; completed in 2007));¶
- (g) . A national health-care waste management plan (ongoing);¶
- (h) . A national plan for the management of biological sludge (Project at allocation procedure), (ongoing);¶
- (i) . A guidance document for the industrial waste management plan (completed in 2006);¶
- (j) . A guidance document for the internal control of the landfill sites and occupational safety (circular under preparation; complete ... [51]

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Formatted: Normal,
Numbered + Level: 1 +
Numbering Style: 1, 2, 3, ... +
Start at: 6 + Alignment: Left +
Aligned at: 1.25 cm + Tab
after: 2.25 cm + Indent at:
1.25 cm

Formatted: Font: Bold

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0
cm, Space After: 12 pt

Formatted: Pattern: Clear

Environmental data in Greece is collected and processed in compliance with EU Legislation on environmental reporting obligations, in relevant formats and with the use of standard and state-of-the-art scientific methods and technical solutions.

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/GRC¶
Formatted: Portuguese (Brazil)

Article 5, paragraph 5

63. See above under article 5, paragraphs 1 to 4.

Article 5, paragraph 6

64. Programmes, inter alia, for the funding of several organizations for EMAS⁷ registration and ISO14001 certification as well as for the awarding of the Eco-label are being implemented under the third CSF. Ministerial Decision 15624/1025/2004 provides for funding for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as does Ministerial Decision 24378/2233/2006 for SMEs as well as industrial and tourist enterprises. In addition, there are no fees for EMAS registration. Under the scheme, all EMAS-registered organizations submit regularly updated environmental statements, including, inter alia, the environmental impact of their activities and products.

In recent years, the register of EMAS certified organizations is growing rapidly in Greece. The number of registered organizations jumped from 1 in January 2001 to 10 in January 2004 and to 55 in December 2007. In September 2010 total number of Emas registered entities was 68 and of Emas registered sites was 820 Registered organizations come from diverse business areas, as well as organizations, universities and local authorities. Moreover, companies providing environmental services, added to the registry and the public sector, started showing interest as well. The annual European EMAS awards ceremony, organized in Athens in 2006, and EC granted Greece the award for the Member State with the largest increase in registrations among old Member States. In 2009 European EMAS Award in small organisations received by a Greek company EMAS registered. Enterprises from all sectors (manufacturing, services, trade, tourism) have been receiving funding for the development of EMAS, ISO 14001 certification and Eco-label. An increasing interest from businesses has been noticed as 180 enterprises have been included in the latest round of the pertinent call of the Operational Programme “Competitiveness” of the third CSF. Law 3325/2005 encourages companies from the Attica region whose operation carries significant environmental effects to establish and achieve EMAS or ISO14001 certification by 2010.

The active records of the European Eco-Label in Greece currently include 37 companies and 278 products. The eco-label awarded by the ASAOS in the following categories: 1. paints and varnishes and outdoor2. Detergents3. mattresses4. Textiles
The mark is also awarded in 9 hotels (accommodation service).

Formatted: English (U.K.)

Deleted: <#>Overview of current and planned activities, initiatives, dates and frequencies of reports:¶
Regular response to the European Commission Reporting Obligations is being continued on the basis of respective national laws. Among these some specific issues are:¶

- ¶
- (a) In the framework of the new Law 3199/9-12-2003 (OJG 280A/2003) on water protection and the sustainable management of the water resources, followed by the PD 51/8-3-2007, with which the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) is transposed into the national legislation, some of the relevant activities concerning environmental information are:¶
 - (i) A project on supporting actions regarding Water Framework Directive implementation, including, inter alia, the drafting of a national guidance describing specific actions in every River Basin District (RBD) (ongoing). ¶
 - (ii) Implementation of the Water Framework Directive’s articles 5 and 6 and annexes II–IV. The Central Water Agency, aiming to reporting to the EC through the WISE system on the following topics: characterization of each RBD, analysis of anthropogenic pressures and impacts, determination of reference conditions, economic analysis of water uses, registration of protected areas (ongoing).¶
 - (iii) A project for the development of a new monitoring network for inland surface (rivers, lakes), transitional, coastal and ground waters, including the development of monitoring programmes for biological quality parameters and assessment/classification of their ecological quality (ongoing).¶
 - (iv) An annual report on the quality of bathing waters.¶
 - (v) Project for the update of the National Databank of Hydrological and Meteorological Information. This project aims at the ... [52]

Deleted: <#>The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through directorate YDAS-2, handles Greece’s relations with the OECD Development ... [53]

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: ry

Deleted: has been

Deleted: environmental services

Deleted: have been

Deleted: has

Deleted: was

Deleted: during which the

Deleted: original

Deleted: In the meantime, e

Deleted: the

Deleted: ¶

⁷ Environmental Management Scheme.

11. GPP in Greece: Greece is currently in the process of undertaking its first steps towards the development of a National Action Plan on Green Public Procurement (GPP) and associated policy. Ministry for the Environment Energy and Climate Change oversees the process from design to implementation of the NAP. An interministerial committee established, responsible for the development and implementation of the NAP on GPP in Greece. Representatives from academic sector, NGOs and private sector can be invited in the meetings.

Ministry of Regional Development and Competitiveness, announced the following financing Programmes supporting enterprises in the Framework of the Project Competitiveness and Enterprises (ESPA 2007-2013):
1. The Programme Green Enterprise 2009: It focuses on the inclusion of environmental dimension and policy by Micro and SMEs (enterprises).
2. The Programme Green Infrastructure 2009 : It focuses on the management of waste by the enterprises in order to guide Micro and SMEs to the implementation of sustainable management of waste.

Article 5, paragraph 7

65. Selected data from databases of the above mentioned environmental fields (air quality, air emissions, water quality and quantity, industry, emissions from stationary combustion sources installations and vehicles, fuel, waste, noise) is published on the website of the MoEECC in the section on the National Environmental Information Network (see art. 5, para. 1 (a)).

Article 5, paragraph 8

66. The Cartagena Protocol, which was ratified through law 3233/2004 (OJG A 51/18-2-2004), provides for a Biosafety Clearing House Mechanism. Actions being taken for the development of a certification of products from sustainable forestry constitute a major challenge (see eco-labelling of products under art. 5, para. 3).

Article 5, paragraph 9

Registry of emissions' trading allowances (Greenhouse Gas Emission Allowances)

The National Center for Environment and Sustainable Development (NCESD) in collaboration with the Emissions Trading Office of (MoEECC) established and maintain a register to record the precise issue, holding, transfer and cancellation of the GHG emissions' trading allowances. (JMD 54409/2632/27-12-2004 (OJG 1931 B 2004 transposition of Directive 2003/87/EC as amended by Directive 2004/101/EC) The registry is accessible to the users only, through: <https://registry.ekpaa.gr/crwebekpaaproductio/startApp.do>. It also provides information to the public, at: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ets/account.do> and <https://registry.ekpaa.gr/crrepekpaaproductio/en/index.htm>

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/G RC¶

Formatted: Right

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: ¶

Formatted: English (U.K.)

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0 cm

Deleted: <#>The European Eco-label has been awarded to 150 products from 22 companies and to 4 services (hotels). The indications are that there is an increasing trend since there are a number of applications waiting to be evaluated. With regard to the total number of labels that have been awarded to Greek companies' products, our country is ranks fourth among EU Member States. Emphasis is also placed on further promoting and publicizing the Eco-label.¶

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: MoE

Deleted: ~~~~~Page Break~~~~~

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: ¶

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0 cm

Inventories of GHG Emissions (annual) provide information on emissions of GHG and other gases from energy production and transport, industrial processes, solvent and other products, agriculture, waste and use changes land and forestry. The inventory describes the methods for calculating emissions, presented activity data and emission factors used and calculate the uncertainty in the estimation of emissions. The annual national inventories submitted each April 15 to the Secretariat of the Convention on Climate Change, cover emissions from 1990 until two years prior to submission.

National reports (communications) are a requirement of our country to the Secretariat of the Convention on Climate Change and submitted at specified intervals specified by the Secretariat of the Convention. Include state policies and measures pursued by individual countries to reduce emissions and actions to raise awareness and education on climate change and the description of adaptation measures.

Emissions Monitoring and Reporting According to JMD 54409/2632/2004, the operator of any facility shall a. monitor greenhouse gas emissions from the installation and b. provide information on emissions of GHG and other gases from energy production and transport, industrial processes, solvent and other products, agriculture, waste and use changes land and forestry. c. submit to Emissions Trading Office an audited report prepared in accordance with the principles of monitoring and reporting requirements.

European Pollutant Emission Register (EPER). In the framework of Directive 96/61/EC concerning integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC), and the European Pollutant Emission Register (EPER), two reports were drafted and rendered in public (Reports EPER 1 and 2) in the years 2004 and 2006 with statistical and inventory data. Most important industries in Greece monitor continuously the main pollutant emissions aiming at enhancing the relevant inventories of the country. The E-PRTR is an extension of the EPER, providing reporting on additional activities and pollutants, and releases pollutants into the ground for waste (hazardous or otherwise) other facilities and releases from diffuse sources. In addition, provides an annual submission of information, as opposed to every three years by under EPER. On 31-3 - each year MoEECC gives releases and waste for about 150 units (facilities) to EC that fall under its obligations according to the Regulation.

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/GRC¶
Formatted: Portuguese (Brazil)

Formatted: Font: Bold
Formatted: French (France)
Field Code Changed
Formatted: English (U.K.)

Deleted: With respect to the registry of emissions trading allowances (greenhouse gas emissions), the National Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (NCESD) was made responsible for the operation of the registry according to JMD 54409/2632/27-12-2004 (OJG 1931 B 2004), which was transposed into the Greek legislation the Directive 2003/87/EC as amended by Directive 2004/101/EC.¶

¶ The institutional framework for the management and updating of the electronic Registry of Emissions Trading Allowances has been concluded with the setting up of the Bureau for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading within the MoE and the assignment of the Registry's management to the above-mentioned NCESD. The Greek Registry has started to operate since 27/4/2006. All EU Directives pertinent to the Registry have been transposed into the Greek Law. ¶

¶ With respect to the European Pollutant Emission Register (EPER), the following applies. Within the framework of Directive 96/61/EC concerning IPPC and the EPER, two reports were drafted and rendered in public (Reports EPER 1 and 2) in 2004 and 2006 with statistical and inventory data from the implementation of the Directive. Most important industries in Greece continuously monitor the major pollutant emissions, aiming to enhance the relevant inventories of the country. The European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR), which replaced the EPER from the 2007 reporting period onwards (EC Regulation 166/2006), has not been ratified yet.¶

Formatted: Font: (Default) TimesNewRoman, Italic, 11.5 pt, Italic, English (U.K.), Not Shadow

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: ¶

Deleted: ¶

Deleted: ¶

Formatted: Tabs: Not at 1 cm

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

XII. OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5

67. Possible problems may occur from:

- (a) Delayed flow of information to the central administration;
- (b) Delays in rendering of reports and data to the public.
- (c) Lack of staff.

(d) By some authorities reported no systematic and continuous maintaining of records Because of the fragmentary nature, either sent outside time limits or is of medium quality.

XIII. FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 5

68. In the framework of the Environmental Accounts–Statistics and Sustainable Development Index, a particular estimation system is being established according to the proposed methodology of Eurostat (General Secretariat of National Statistical Service).

69. In cooperation with Eurostat, the NAMEA accounts for air emissions and energy are being established (General Secretariat of National Statistical Service, annual data for five years).

70. A project is being implemented to produce estimations regarding forest accounts, according to the Eurostat methodology, in the framework of the Environmental Accounts programme (General Secretariat of National Statistical Service, annual data for five years).

XIV. WEBSITE ADDRESSES RELEVANT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5

71. www.ypeka.gr – Ministry of Environment Energy and Climate Change (MoEECC);
www.minenv.gr/emas, www.ypeka.gr – site for EMAS of MoEECC;
www.edpp.gr – National Environmental Information Network;
www.ekpa.gr – National Centre for the Environment and Sustainable Development;
www.mfa.gr – Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
www.noa.gr – National Observatory of Athens;
www.okxe.gr – Hellenic Mapping and Cadastral Organization;
www.minenv.gr/medeuwi – EU Water Initiative/Mediterranean Component;
www.minenv.gr/3/31/313/31303/g3130304.html and <http://www.organismosathinas.gr/> – Organization for Planning and Environmental Protection of Athens;
www.minenv.gr/3/31/314/g314.html and <http://orth.gr/default.aspx?lang=2> – Organization for Planning and Environmental Protection of Thessaloniki
<http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu> – EIONET;
<http://www.ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel> and www.ypeka.gr – Eco-label;
www.hydroscope.gr National Data Bank of Hydrological and Meteorological Information;
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ets/account.do> and
<https://registry.ekpa.gr/crrepekpaaproduction/en/index.htm>

XV. LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND OTHER MEASURES IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISIONS ON SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES IN ARTICLE 6

Legislation and Information provided under this Article, remain the same as it is in the Report of the previous reporting cycle.

XVI. OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6

72. One obstacle is possible delays during the procedure of making the EIA studies public.

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/G RC¶

Formatted: Right

Formatted: Tabs: Not at 1 cm

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Formatted: Tabs: Not at 1 cm

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: ¶

Formatted: Default Paragraph Font

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: minenv

Formatted: English (U.K.)

Deleted: o

Formatted: English (U.K.)

Field Code Changed

Formatted ... [54]

Deleted: MoE

Formatted ... [55]

Deleted: ;

Field Code Changed

Formatted: English (U.K.)

Formatted: English (U.K.)

Field Code Changed

Formatted ... [56]

Deleted: -

Deleted: ;¶

Field Code Changed

Formatted ... [57]

Deleted: s

Field Code Changed

Formatted ... [58]

Field Code Changed

Formatted: Hyperlink, English (U.K.)

Formatted: English (U.K.)

Formatted ... [59]

Formatted: English (U.K.)

Deleted: <#>Concerning the relevant definitions in arti ... [60]

Formatted: English (U.S.)

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering ... [61]

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/GRC¶
Formatted: Portuguese (Brazil)

XVII. FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 6

No statistical data is available.

Through the website ‘Open Governance’ citizens can be informed on the legislative initiatives of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change and participate in public consultation (see more under article 8)

In compliance with the -JMD 11014/703/2003(OJG 332B/2003) , Preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment relating to aquaculture operations are forwarded to the Directorate of Aquaculture and Inland Waters, by the competent Office of MoEECC , for an opinion.

These studies are also transmitted by MoEECC, to the concerned Prefecture Councils to acquaint and inform the citizens and their representative bodies (for the Preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment) and publicizing the case and opinion (for the Environmental Impact Studies).

The submitted preliminary environmental impact assessment referred to the Rules of Licensing of Production and Supply of Electricity (D5/IL/V/F1/17951,G.G.. 1498/A.8-12-2000) provided in the permit stage of production and therefore not part of the environmental licensing of establishments which follow the license production. Although before the opinion of the Energy Regulatory Authority (RAE), there is the possibility of objections which take into account both the Authority and the Minister.Finally summaries of licenses production are displayed on program clarity.

Deleted: .
Deleted: ¶

XVIII. WEBSITE ADDRESSES RELEVANT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6

73.

www.ypeka.gr Ministry of Environment,Energy and Climate Change.

www.biodiv-chm.gr; – Site of Clearinghouse Mechanism of Biodiversity in Greece;

www.ekpaa.gr – National Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development;

www.edpp.gr – National Environmental Information Network;

www.epper.gr – Operational Programme for the Environment;

<http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu> – EIONET

www.unece.org – UNECE:

www.opengov.gr

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering
Deleted: www.minenv.gr; – MoE;
Formatted: Default Paragraph Font
Formatted: Bullets and Numbering
Field Code Changed
Formatted: French (France)
Formatted: French (France)
Field Code Changed
Formatted: Portuguese (Brazil)
Formatted: Portuguese (Brazil)
Formatted: English (U.K.)
Formatted: English (U.K.)

XIX. PRACTICAL AND/OR OTHER PROVISIONS MADE FOR THE PUBLIC TO PARTICIPATE DURING THE PREPARATION OF PLANS AND PROGRAMMES RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 7

Legislation and Information provided under this Article, remain the same as it is in the Report of the previous reporting cycle.

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/G RC¶

Formatted: Right

XX. OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE PREPARATION OF POLICIES RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 7

Legislation and information under this heading remain the same as it is in the Report of the previous reporting cycle

XXI. OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 7

74. Participatory processes can take a lot of time and money, affecting the timely implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive (e.g. possible delays, potential changes in the plans). Another obstacle is a lack of public ability and willingness to participate.

XXII. FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 7

75. Regional Environmental and Spatial Planning Directorate has worked as a licensing authority to local-scale projects and is responsible for the design of the Regional Waste Management System (P.E.S.D.A.).

Experience to date, no recorded problems and obstacles to information and public participation

The provisions of Law 2742/1999 on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development (art. 4) to involve non-governmental organizations in environmental decision-making within the National Council for Planning and Sustainable Development - informing the public on urban planning through the public consultation

Through the website 'Open Governance' citizens can be informed on the legislative initiatives of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change and participate in public consultation (see more under article 8)

XXIII. WEBSITE ADDRESSES RELEVANT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 7

76. www.unfccc.int, www.ypeka.gr, www.ekpaa.gr, www.ypan.gr, www.unece.org.

XXIV. EFFORTS MADE TO PROMOTE EFFECTIVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION DURING THE PREPARATION BY PUBLIC AUTHORITIES OF EXECUTIVE REGULATIONS AND OTHER GENERALLY APPLICABLE LEGALLY BINDING RULES THAT MAY HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 8

In October 2009 was established in Greece the Greek Open Government Initiative. In order to ensure the diffusion of information and to involve all citizens and stakeholders in the decision making mechanism, a website has been created, giving the opportunity for participation on the consultation of draft laws, ministerial decisions etc. The Opengov.gr has been designed to serve

Deleted: <#>Joint Ministerial Decision (JMD) 107017/2006 has introduced the necessary provisions for the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, or strategic environmental assessment (SEA). A number of plans and programmes at the national, regional or local levels are adopted through a formal procedure in sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, tourism, water resources management, waste management, urban or physical planning and land use, which are likely to have significant environmental effects, are made subject to an SEA.¶

<#>In particular, a consultation process was followed on the respective SEA studies for the three Special Frameworks... [62]

Formatted: English (U.S.)

Deleted: <#>The adoption of policies relating to the ... [63]

Formatted: Tabs: Not at 1 cm

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: No information was provided under this heading.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1.25 cm

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Formatted: Tabs: Not at 1 cm

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Formatted: Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt, English (U.S.)

Formatted: ... [64]

Deleted: ¶
-----Page Break-----

Formatted: Font: Times New Roman Bold, Bold, All caps

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Formatted: Default Paragraph Font

Deleted: minenv.

Formatted: Font: Not Bold, English (U.K.), Not All caps

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/GRC¶

Formatted: Portuguese (Brazil)

the principles of transparency, deliberation, collaboration and accountability and includes three initiatives:

Electronic deliberation. Since October 2009 almost every piece of draft legislation, or even policy initiative by the government, are posted in opengov.gr, open to public consultation. Citizens and organisations can post their comments, suggestions and criticisms article-by-article.

Since October 2009 until November 2010 a total number of 22 acts (draft laws,executive technical regulations,JMD and policy initiatives) of the Ministry of MoEECC were sent by the Ministry to [opengov](http://opengov.gr) site for public consultation .During the period of the public consultation 7007 comments were sent by the members of the public to [opengov](http://opengov.gr) site.

Since October 2009 until November 2010 a total number of 110 acts ((draft laws,executive technical regulations,JMD and policy initiatives)of all the Ministries were also sent by the Government for public consultation to [opengov](http://opengov.gr) site.

Law 3861/2010 (112/13.7.2010 Gazette, Issue A) and Program "Diavgeia"(Clarity) established mandatory display on the internet and disclosure of all decisions and acts of administration, thus enhancing transparency on government actions.

Since 1991 MD 70000/1380/1991 (B 480) established "Publicity in the acts of MoEECC."

77. By an NGO was asked how many visits recorded and with what object on the portals of administration Since this comment was very lately submitted could not be investigated and included in the present report . Nevertheless there are detailed data already included in this report concerning the number of visits and comments of the public participating in consultations with every Ministry on opengov.gr where there are detailed records of the content of comments.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

78. By a member of the public it was highlighted the importance of site "OpenGov.gr" and the programme "clarity " and its effective contribution to public participation and transparency as well as the establishment of the separate MoEECC.

Consultation is also provided by law either as a consultation with national representative bodies or as a general public [consultation](#). In the Parliament, a Permanent Committee on the Protection of the Environment established in 2005 contributes in the consideration and debating of environmental issues.

Formatted: English (U.K.)

Formatted: Font: Times New Roman

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: ¶

Formatted: English (U.K.)

Deleted: usually

Deleted: consultation

Deleted: and not as a general institutionalized procedure for public participation in preparing national legislation or executive regulations.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

79. Some indicative cases of public participation under article 8, apart from the cases stated above under article 6 and 7, are the following:

(a) According to Law 1650/86 for the protection of the environment, for the designation of protected areas, a Specific Environmental Study (SES) is a prerequisite. After its completion, the SES is approved and then, together with the draft legislation text for the designation of the area is available in public. Comments are incorporated and then the legislative text is signed by the competent Ministers;

(b) According to Laws 1650/86 and 2742/99, 27 Management Bodies have been established in protected areas of Greece covering approximately 1.7 million ha. Administrative

Councils of these bodies are composed by representatives of central, regional and local authorities, representatives of local stakeholders' groups, researchers and NGOs. Management Bodies are entitled to draft regulations for administration and functioning for their areas.

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/G RC¶
Formatted: Right

XXV. OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 8

80. No information was provided under this heading.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: No information was provided under this heading

Formatted: English (U.K.)

XXVI. FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 8

Formatted: Indent: Left: 1 cm

81. No information was provided under this heading.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Deleted: ¶

XXVII. WEBSITE ADDRESSES RELEVANT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 8

www.opengov.gr

<http://diavgeia.gov.gr/>

<http://et.diavgeia.gov.gr>

Deleted: <#>According to Article 24 of the Constitution, the protection of the natural and cultural environment constitutes a duty of the State and a right of everyone. The State is bound to adopt special preventive and repressive measures for the preservation of the environment in the concept of sustainable development. The Greek legal system fulfils the rights and obligations proclaimed by the Convention, as it adequately secures judicial protection in environmental cases, irrespective of whether the dispute arisen derives from private entity activities or from acts or omissions of the public authorities and whether the claims for judicial protection involve the prevention of environmental damage or the payment of damages. ¶

XXVIII. LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND OTHER MEASURES IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ARTICLE 9

Legislation and Information provided under Article, 9 on access to justice, remain the same as it is in the Report of the previous reporting cycle. Concerning fees in the judicial procedure will increase through the new law that comes into force in 2011.

<#>Law 1650/86 on the protection of the environment as amended by Law 3010/2002 and implemented by several Presidential Decrees and JMDs is the basic environmental protection law in Greece. A great number of EU Directives on the environment have been transposed in the Greek legislation and several laws on environmental issues e.g. on the protection of the marine environment and on the protection of forests etc also provide for environmental protection.¶

XXIX. OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 9

82. According to the opinion of an NGO, there is a relative scarcity of resources for access to justice.

<#>In addition, concerning access to information, according to the Constitution the competent service or authority is obliged to reply to requests for information and documents within a set deadline not exceeding 60 days, as specified by law. In the ca[... [65]

XXX. FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 9

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

83. The president of the court may at the applicant's request, exempt poor litigants from the duty to pay stamp fees and the deposit for the submission of an application if it is deemed that the applicant is in poor financial condition. In addition, Law 3226/2004 (OJG A24/2004) provides for legal aid for poor litigants in cases of civil, commercial and criminal law.

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/GRC¶

Formatted: Portuguese (Brazil)

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

84. A small number of quasi-judicial recourses at administration level submitted before the above Special Committee in the Ministry of Interior for the modification or reconsideration of the acts or omissions of a Public Authority regarding public access to environmental information.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Formatted: English (U.S.)

Hellenic Ombudsman, as reported, has received a numerous public complaints and petitions concerning denial to access to environmental information.

XXXI. WEBSITE ADDRESSES RELEVANT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 9

85. www.Ministryofjustice.gr – Ministry of Justice; www.ste.gr – Council of State;

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

www.dsa.gr – Athens Bar Association; www.synigoros.gr – Hellenic Ombudsman
www.minenv.gr/eyep – Hellenic Environmental Inspectorate.

XXXII. CONTRIBUTION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION TO THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT OF EVERY PERSON OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS TO LIVE IN AN ENVIRONMENT ADEQUATE TO HIS OR HER HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

86. The Convention's implementation constitutes an important step forward in the efforts of the international community to ensure a sustainable environment for future generations. Greece believes that the existence of time frames, practical implementation measures and the possibility for Governments to work together with civil society provide the foundations for effective environmental protection.

Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

Formatted: English (U.K.)

XXXIII. LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND OTHER MEASURES IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 6bis AND ANNEX I bis

Answer: The European Union directive that refers to the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment (2001/18/EC), was incorporated into our national law with JMD 38639/2017/21-9-2005 (GG 1334/21-9 -2005). This directive regulates the deliberate release of GMOs both for research purposes and for placing on the market, always with a focus on the protection of the environment and human health. According to JMD as Competent Authority responsible for the deliberate release of GMOs for research and development purposes has been designated the Ministry for Environment Energy and Climate Change and Competent Authority responsible for the deliberate release of GMOs for placing on the market is the Ministry of Rural Development and Food. In addition, Articles 12 and 27 of the said JMD provides a clear process for public consultation and access to information. Article 15 of the above JMD provides for public

Deleted: ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/G
RC¶

Formatted: Right

participation regarding their placing on the market (for commercial use). Note that under this JMD not submitted a request (notification file) to Ministry of Environment (YPEKA) for experimental cultivation of GMOs and therefore is not available for public consultation and participation in decision making. Similarly, not submitted a request for cultivation of GMOs to Ministry of Rural Development and Food for placing on the market purposes . In addition JMD 11642/1943/2002 which transposed Directive 98/81 regarding contained use of Genetically modified microorganisms (GMMs),also provides in Article 12 for public participation. Labeling and traceability of GMOs are also provided by EU Regulation 1830/2003.

B. As to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, ratified by L.3233/2004 (Gazette 51 / A ' / 18.2.2004),in article 23 of the Protocol ,public information and participation procedures are provided to support the requirements of paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Convention.

Formatted: English (U.K.)

XXXIV. OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 6bis AND ANNEX I bis

Formatted: English (U.K.)

No available information

XXXV. FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 6bis AND ANNEX I bis

Formatted: English (U.S.)

No available information

Deleted: ¶

XXXVI. WEBSITE ADDRESSES RELEVANT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6bis

The list of authorised genetically modified organisms and the exact scope of authorisation is in the register of GM food and feed in the EU, on the site:

www.ec.europa.eu/food/dyna/gm_register/index_en.cfm

**UNITED
NATIONS**

E



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/GRC
9 June 201108

Original: ENGLISH

Page 1: [2] Formatted mama2 1/24/2011 12:23:00 PM
Portuguese (Brazil)

Page 1: [2] Formatted mama2 1/24/2011 12:23:00 PM
Portuguese (Brazil)

Page 1: [2] Formatted mama2 1/24/2011 12:23:00 PM
Portuguese (Brazil)

Page 1: [2] Formatted mama2 1/24/2011 12:23:00 PM
Portuguese (Brazil)

Page 1: [3] Formatted mama2 12/17/2010 11:30:00 AM
Greek

Page 1: [3] Formatted mama2 12/17/2010 11:42:00 AM
Font: 12 pt

Page 1: [3] Formatted mama2 12/17/2010 11:54:00 AM
Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt

Page 1: [3] Formatted mama2 12/17/2010 11:54:00 AM
Font: Times New Roman, English (U.K.)

Page 1: [3] Formatted **mama2** **12/17/2010 11:54:00 AM**

Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt

Page 1: [3] Formatted **mama2** **12/15/2010 10:39:00 AM**

Font: Bold

Page 1: [3] Formatted **mama2** **12/15/2010 10:28:00 AM**

French (France)

Page 1: [3] Formatted **mama2** **12/15/2010 10:28:00 AM**

French (France)

Page 1: [3] Formatted **mama2** **11/17/2010 1:56:00 AM**

English (U.K.)

Page 1: [4] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 2:24:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [4] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 2:24:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [4] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 2:24:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [4] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 2:24:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [4] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 2:24:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [4] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 2:24:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [4] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 2:24:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [4] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 2:24:00 PM**
Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [5] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 10:39:00 AM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [5] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 10:56:00 AM**
English (U.S.)

Page 1: [5] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 10:56:00 AM**
English (U.S.)

Page 1: [5] Formatted **mama2** **12/16/2010 1:08:00 AM**
French (France)

Page 1: [5] Formatted **mama2** **12/15/2010 9:17:00 PM**
English (U.S.)

Page 1: [6] Formatted **IFLOW15** **11/24/2010 1:24:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [7] Formatted **mama2** **12/16/2010 1:09:00 AM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [8] Deleted **mama2** **1/22/2011 8:52:00 PM**

FORMAT FOR AARHUS CONVENTION IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

CERTIFICATION SHEET

The following report is submitted on behalf of GREECE in accordance with decision I/8

Name of officer responsible for

submitting the national report: Angeliki Tsachali-Kalogirou

Signature: Angeliki Tsachali-Kalogirou

Date: 8/12/2010

IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report

Party: GREECE

National Focal Point

Full name of the institution: **MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE (Department of International Relations and EU Affairs.)**

Name and title of officer: **ANGELIKI TSACHALI- KALOGIROU ,LAWYER**

MARIA PEPPA, HEAD OF DEPARTMENT.

Postal address: 15 Amaliados str,115-23 Athens ,Greece

Telephone: +30-210-6465762, +30-210-6411717

Fax: +30-210-6434470

E-mail: ang.tsachali@tmeok.minenv.gr

Contact officer for national report (if different): not applicable

Report submitted on behalf of GREECE in accordance with decision I/8

Question 1

Provide brief information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on which types of public authorities were consulted or contributed to its preparation, on how the public was consulted and how the outcome of the public consultation was taken into account and on the material which was used as a basis for preparing the report.

Answer:

Regarding the process by which this report has been prepared, the Hellenic Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Climate Change ,

Page 1: [9] Deleted	mama2	1/22/2011 8:45:00 PM
----------------------------	--------------	-----------------------------

Physical Planning and Public Works

Page 1: [10] Deleted	mama2	1/22/2011 8:45:00 PM
-----------------------------	--------------	-----------------------------

,Competent Bodies and NGOs have also been consulted for the completion of this report.: Department of International Relations and EU Affairs, Special Service for the Environment, Environmental Planning Directorate, Bureau of National Network for Environmental Information ,Control of Air Pollution and Noise Directorate, Central Water Service, Special Service of Managing the Competitive Project “Environment and Sustainable Development” (EPPER),Spatial Planning Directorate, Urban Planning Directorate , Directorate for Special Upgrading Projects, , the National Centre of Environment and Sustainable Development, and the NGO,s Mediterranean Information Office.(MIO- ECSDE) as well as

Page 1: [11] Formatted	mama2	12/15/2010 6:00:00 PM
-------------------------------	--------------	------------------------------

French (France)

Page 1: [11] Formatted	mama2	12/2/2010 6:20:00 PM
-------------------------------	--------------	-----------------------------

Font: Times New Roman

Page 1: [12] Deleted	mama2	1/22/2011 8:45:00 PM
-----------------------------	--------------	-----------------------------

Physical Planning and Public Works,

Page 1: [13] Deleted	mama2	1/22/2011 8:45:00 PM
-----------------------------	--------------	-----------------------------

,through the Department of International Relations and EU Affairs, has invited the following Public Authorities for consultation and contribution to the preparation of the present report: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of ?National Education and Religious

Affairs, Ministry of Development, Ministry of Interior Public Administration and Decentralisation, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Rural Development and Food, Ministry of Mercantile and of Aegean and Island Policy. Hellenic Food Authority (EFET), and Additionally the following departments of the Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Climate Change

Recent reports of the Ministry for the Environment, (YPEKA), such as the recent report to EU on directive 2003/4 on public access to environmental information, recent studies, as well as relevant inputs of Public Authorities (included the Regional ones) to the parallel OECD environmental performance review preparation, concerning issues of this Report, have also been taken into consideration.

The above participation included, a consultation period of approx. 12 weeks, before the first draft is available on the Internet, by e-Mail, and where necessary with clarifications meetings and discussions. After the completion of the first draft, it was displayed for public consultation on the Website of the Ministry of Environment for 4 weeks. Additionally a special e-mailbox has been set up for the public and NGOs to submit comments on the contents of the questionnaire and on the first draft of the Report. Submitted comments, have been integrated. Decisions 1/8 and 11/10 on reporting were taken into consideration and where possible the recommendations of the Aarhus Convention Compliance Committee. Since it is the first report of Greece, it was difficult to meet due time frames but efforts were made to meet the quality requirements of the information included in the Report.

Question 2 (optional):

Report any particular circumstances that are relevant for understanding the report, e.g. whether there is a federal and/or decentralized decision-making structure, whether the provisions of the Convention have a direct effect upon its entry into force, or whether financial constraints are a significant obstacle to implementation (optional).

According to Article 101 of the Constitution the administration of the State is organised in accordance with the principle of decentralisation. Regions constitute, another level of administrative organisation provided by law. Besides according to article 102 of the Constitution the administration of local affairs belongs to the local government agencies. The first level of local government (the municipalities and the communes) has been also established. Finally relevant laws provide for the second level of local government, the prefecture government whose authority extends to the territory of all the local government agencies of a prefecture.

“Kallikratis” (L.3852/10 OJG 87/7 -6-2010) the first level of local government that consists of local municipalities and the second level of local government that consists of

13 Regions the State decentralization was also established that consists of 7 decentralized administrations, as well as the merging of some municipalities and communities and the abolition of prefecture government. 13 governors are elected for 13 Regions. This law comes into force on 1-1-2011

International treaties and Conventions such as the Aarhus Convention require, according to article 28 of the Constitution, a national law voted by the Parliament, through which they are ratified and are not applied

directly or have a direct effect upon its entry into force. Greece ratified the Aarhus Convention at the end of 2005 and thus became a Party to the Convention. (see more under Article 3) Besides and for the purpose of a better understanding of this report, it should be noted that the implementation of Aarhus Convention in Greece is generally based on EU Directives which have already been transposed into national law. (see more under Article 3)

Article 3

List legislative, regulatory and other measures that implement the general provisions in paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8 of article 3.

Explain how these paragraphs have been implemented. In particular, describe:

- (a) With respect to **paragraph 2**, measures taken to ensure that officials and authorities assist and provide the required guidance;
- (b) With respect to **paragraph 3**, measures taken to promote education and environmental awareness;
- (c) With respect to **paragraph 4**, measures taken to ensure that there is appropriate

recognition of and support to associations, organizations or groups promoting environmental

protection;

(d) With respect to **paragraph 7**, measures taken to promote the principles of the

Convention internationally;

- i) Measures taken to coordinate within and between ministries to inform officials involved in other relevant international forums about article 3, paragraph 7, and the Almaty Guidelines, indicating whether the measures to coordinate are ongoing;
- (ii) Measures taken to provide access to information at the national level regarding international forums, including the stages at which the access to information was provided;
- (iii) Measures taken to promote and enable public participation at the national level with respect to international forums (e.g. inviting NGO members to participate in the Party's delegations in international environmental negotiations or involving NGOs in forming the Party's official position for such negotiations) including the stages at which the access to information was provided;
- (iv) Measures taken to promote the principles of the Convention in the procedures of other international forums;
- (v) Measures taken to promote the principles of the Convention in the work programmes, projects, decisions and other substantive outputs of other international forums;

(e) With respect to **paragraph 8**, measures taken to ensure that persons exercising

their rights under the Convention are not be penalized, persecuted or harassed.

ANSWER:

(a) In Greece there is a complete legal framework regulating access to environmental information and generally access to information and ensuring that officials and authorities assist and provide the required guidance.

The Convention on access to information ,public participation in decision- making and access to justice in environmental matters(Aarhus Convention) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), was ratified by the Greek Parliament in December 2005 through Law 3422/12-12-2005 (Official Journal of the Government A 303 /2005) According to Article 3 par 9(a) of the Joint Ministerial Decision(JMD) 11764/653/2006 (OJG 327B/17-3-2006) through which the Directive 2003/4/EC ,on public access to environmental information was transposed, officials are required to support the public in seeking access to information [ypeka](#). radically recently.I

ΕΝΗΜΕΡΩΣΗ ΕΠΕΝΔΥΤΩΝ

**Αδειοδοτική Εξέλιξη
Έργων ΑΠΕ -
Μητρώα**

**Ειδικά θέματα
Τεχνολογιών
Ανανεώσιμων
Πηγών Ενέργειας**

Στοιχεία εξέλιξης
έργων ΑΠΕ

*Τοποθέτηση Φ/Β
συστημάτων μέχρι
100kW σε γήπεδα που
δεν βρίσκονται σε
δάσος ή σε δασική
έκταση, σε ρέμα, στον
αιγιαλό ή την παραλία,
σε καθορισμένο
αρχαιολογικό χώρο ή
σε περιοχή απολύτου
προστασίας της
φύσης.*

Με στόχο την ενημέρωση των ενδιαφερομένων για την αδειοδοτική εξέλιξη των έργων ΑΠΕ ανά τεχνολογία και με εξειδίκευση για τα Φωτοβολταϊκά συστήματα, καταγράφονται τα σχετικά στοιχεία σε Πίνακες οι οποίοι θα ανανεώνονται, σε πρώτο στάδιο, ανά τρίμηνο.

Η συλλογή των στοιχείων γίνεται σε συνεργασία της Υπηρεσίας Α.Π.Ε. με τη Ρυθμιστική Αρχή Ενέργειας (ΡΑΕ), τον Διαχειριστή Ελληνικού Συστήματος Μεταφοράς Ηλεκτρικής Ενέργειας (ΔΕΣΜΗΕ) και τους Διαχειριστές Δικτύου και Δικτύου Μη Διασυνδεδεμένων Νησιών.

New service: Licensing of Production of Electricity from Renewable Energy Sources (RES) by the Regulatory Authority for Energy (RAE), after review by them.

According to Article 2, paragraph 2 of Law 3851/2010 (which replaces Article 3, paragraph 2 of Law 3468/2006), the Investor Service for RES projects registered with the decisions of licensing production electricity from renewable energy issued by the Regulatory Authority for Energy (RAE) after completion of review of such decisions.

The inclusion of any decision of the RAE in the register, held when completed the review of any submitted application.

[Permits Register September-October 2010.](#)

Νέα υπηρεσία: Χορήγηση Αδειών Παραγωγής Ηλεκτρικής Ενέργειας από Ανανεώσιμες Πηγές Ενέργειας (ΑΠΕ) από τη Ρυθμιστική Αρχή Ενέργειας (Ρ.Α.Ε.), μετά τον έλεγχο νομιμότητας αυτών.

Σύμφωνα με το άρθρο 2, παρ. 2 του νόμου 3851/2010 (το οποίο αντικατέστησε το άρθρο 3, παρ. 2 του ν. 3468/2006), η Υπηρεσία Εξυπηρέτησης Επενδυτών για έργα ΑΠΕ, καταχωρεί σε σχετικό μητρώο τις αποφάσεις χορήγησης αδειών παραγωγής ηλεκτρικής ενέργειας από ΑΠΕ που εκδίδει η Ρυθμιστική Αρχή Ενέργειας (ΡΑΕ), μετά την ολοκλήρωση του ελέγχου νομιμότητας επί των αποφάσεων αυτών.

Η καταχώριση κάθε απόφασης της ΡΑΕ στο σχετικό μητρώο, πραγματοποιείται εφόσον έχει ολοκληρωθεί η εξέταση τυχόν υποβληθείσας προσφυγής.

[Μητρώο Αδειών Σεπτεμβρίου-Οκτωβρίου 2010.](#)

The 2003/4/EC Directive was formulated by EC for the better implementation of the first pillar of the Aarhus Convention by the Member States. According to article 3 para 1 of the above JMD Public Authorities make available environmental information held by or for them to any applicant at his request within the deadlines set by law. If a request is formulated in a too general manner, the public authority asks as soon as possible the applicant to specify the request and assists the applicant in doing so. If the information requested is not held by or for the public authority to which the request is addressed, the public authority transfers the request to the competent authority within 3 days and informs the applicant accordingly. **(for more information see under Article 4)**

*In Greece, the right of access to information is not limited only to environmental issues. This right has been increasing in significance since, according to the **Hellenic Constitution the competent service or authority is obliged to reply to requests for information and for issuing documents, especially certificates, supporting documents and attestations within a set deadline not exceeding 60 days, as specified by law. In case this deadline elapses without action or in case***

*of unlawful refusal, in addition to any other sanctions and consequences at law, special compensation is also paid to the applicant, as specified by law. (article 10, para.3 of the Hellenic Constitution 1975/1986/2001). The right of access to information and to electronically handled information is also provided in Article 5 A of the Hellenic Constitution where it is stated that **facilitation of access to electronically handled information, as well as of the production, exchange and diffusion thereof constitutes an obligation of the State**. The right to access to official documents is also ensured by Law 1599/86(art.16)as well as by Law 2690/1999 regarding “Administrative Procedure Code.*

Citizens Service Centers (CSCs) have been established by the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization in Regions, Prefectures and Local Authorities all over Greece by law 3013/2002. The CSCs are assisting effectively the citizens in dealing with Public Administration, and in accessing information and documents. The website of CSCs has been designed and developed for the citizens' efficient electronic information and service.

In addition it now gives citizens the possibility to submit comments and electronic applications regarding a wide series of administrative documents, thus implementing a substantial step towards e-governance in Greece. The Citizen Service Call Centre (1564) is also an important step towards citizens' information.

Additionally a Citizens' Service Bureau operates within the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works and a Citizen's Service Bureau or a Public Relations Department operates also in other Ministries to assist citizens, dealing with Public Administration. Besides, a Press Department operates in every Ministry, competent for diffusing press releases regarding each Ministry's activities. It should be also mentioned that a special helpdesk, which consists of officers especially appointed for public information and assistance on relevant issues, has been established by the Managing Unit of the “Operational ‘Environment’ Programme” (EPPER) under the Ministry for the Environment. Access to environmental information concerning the EPPER, is also acquired through the respective website (www.epper.gr). Additional information on environmental matters and on the activities of the Ministry for the Environment is also accessed through the Ministry's official website (www.minenv.gr) currently under reconstruction.

Information on environmental issues of other Ministries is accessed through their official websites.

Besides citizens have the possibility to **submit, through the established web line of communication with the citizens, their questions, comments etc on the issues of the Ministry for the Environment (YPEHODE),**

(b)+(c) The (YPEKA) seeks to encourage local communities and voluntary organizations to develop partnerships and take initiative to organize environmental activities. In the official website of the Ministry volunteers are urged to participate in the actions planned , to share the experiences and to contribute to a better environment.

Development Intervention Program of the Ministry for the period 2010 to 2015, is a product of coherent effort by the Government to implement a sustainable response to the challenges facing the country both in environmental, energy and spatial level and at ensuring the long-term economic growth and exit from the crisis, setting a solid foundation for future generations.

Through the program promotes solutions to important problems facing the Greek economy, aiming at self-sufficiency and sustainability. Investment Project Development Interventions can be the vehicle for the restart of production organizations in the country providing stimulating the activity of some of the most important sectors of the Greek economy, creating significant domestic growth stock through technology transfer and investment in research and new technologies .

The implementation of this ambitious program will require considerable effort and ongoing dialogue with all social agencies to ensure the positive response of private initiative, which is an important factor for success. The Department is committed to pursue the dialogue and be open to any proposal to ensure the success of the program.

The ultimate goal of the program development interventions is to exploit the potential of the private sector through deregulation of the institutions where YPEKA assume a coordinating role between the private and public institutions to steer the economy towards a new development model, ensuring the objectives

The Pillars of Development Intervention Program are:

Tackling climate change by switching to a competitive economy, low carbon

The Pillar incorporates a specific set of policies that focus on improving energy efficiency, increasing the energy potential of the country from Renewable Energy Sources (RES) and gas, security of energy supply, reliable energy products and services to consumers and promoting environmentally friendly production and consumption patterns through the "Green Procurement". The total investment budget is included under this pillar is the € 31,8 billion and is expected to create over 169,000 jobs.

Sustainable management and protection of natural resources

This pillar brings actions for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, the management and protecting water resources and forests, and in planning for the timely handling of environmental risks and crises. Achieving these objectives is approached through making investments in technical development projects and projects for exploitation of natural resources and restoration of natural landscapes. The total

investment budget is included under this pillar is the € 2,3 billion and is expected to create over 11,000 jobs.

Upgrading the quality of life, respecting the environment

Through the actions of third pillar seeks to improve the quality of life by promoting sustainable development, to ensure the productive and social cohesion, while ensuring environmental protection. Under the pillar, a number of large metropolitan urban revitalization interventions in both the capital and the region. Also included significant actions to improve the urban environment such as reducing noise and pollution and the development of sustainable mobility. Also promoted significant investment in recycling and waste management. The total investment budget is included under this pillar is the € 9,5 billion and is expected to create about 30,000 jobs.

Strengthening of mechanisms and institutions of environmental governance

The fourth pillar of the program is aimed at strengthening environmental governance through a set of actions which are key pillars to strengthen institutions and mechanisms of environmental governance, institutional interventions and investments to enhance their physical and human resources. At the same time, promote citizen access to environmental information in context and the relevant European Directive (INSPIRE) and strengthened the institution of voluntary actions with awareness raising, and organizational and financial assistance of voluntary actions. The total investment budget is included under this pillar is the € 846,7 million and is expected to create more than 2,400 jobs. mission in April 2010.

The local port authorities in cooperation with local government, organize or assist existing network of volunteers from environmental organizations, cultural associations, federations, tourist associations, fishermen- scouts clubs, student clubs, etc. who participate in the Voluntary Cleanup of the coasts.

Directorate of Marine Environment Protection (DMEP) (Ministry of Civil protection) conducts training seminars of port authorities and regional pollution control plants in protecting the marine environment and new techniques for dealing with marine pollution incidents, so as the port authorities staff holds accurate and updated knowledge for the protection of the marine environment and respond immediately to pollution incidents as well as to relative citizens' complaints

Running since 2003 the interministerial pilot training volunteers program "protect myself and others" where DMEP representative participated in the Steering Group. The program is implemented in cooperation with municipalities and other stakeholders (Schools Hospitals etc and educate adults in risk management skills. For example by 2006 had trained about 1500 volunteers across the country and 2500 strains of Public Administration and Local Authorities.. Besides representatives of DMEP involved in implementing the voluntary Education and Adult Education to address emergencies and extreme natural phenomena.

In the framework of actions for Environmental Education (EE) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Greece is following the UNECE and UNESCO processes at a satisfactory level. Within these processes:

- A National Commission for ESD has been set up which includes NGOs, as well as museums, etc.
- The Ministry of Education has set up a programme of action for the Decade for ESD (DESDE), identifying focus issues for each year, and has invited NGOs to participate in the implementation of the programme.
- Collaboration of the Hellenic Ministry for the Environment Physical Planning and Public Works(Dept.of of International Relations and EU Affairs)with the Ministry for National Education in the framework of Education for Sustainable Development
- The Ministry for the Environment /Central Water Agency, in the framework of the implementation of WFD(Water framework directive) implementation, proceeds to the following supporting actions: establishment and operation of a related web site, translation of the EC WFD guidance documents, and education of the personnel of the competent authorities, public information and awareness?(ongoing). ?
- With the support of the Ministry of Education's Operational Programme EPEAEK (funded by the Community Structural Funds, the Cohesion Fund and national funds) and in coordination with the Ministry for the Environment, projects have been approved which focus on enhancing awareness, education, training and participation in decision making bodies of protected areas. NGOs are running these projects and local civil society is a key target group as well as local administrative bodies.
- Ministry for the Environment (YPEHODE) supported awareness raising efforts, giving priority to information, education and training programmes issues.
- In the context of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development 2005-2014 the Ministry of Education formulated the National Strategy and the progress and evaluation Indicators.
- ?During the period 2004-2007, 18500 programmes of environmental education and 27000 programmes of health education took place in primary education, 19000

programmes of environmental education and 18000 programmes of health education took place in secondary education, 4686 school programmes financed by EU through Aegean University, 380 financed school programmes on gender equality – RCGE and 820 financed interventional school programmes – National Youth Institute with co-operations of 6000 schools

-There are 35 national thematic networks, each one in 120 schools. Its subject coincides with all the activities of the education for sustainable development.

- Training of 15000 educators is in process as well as teacher training .

-Periodical material production on sustainable development from Centres of Environmental Education (CEE).

-All academic years of the Decade 2005-2014 are nominated according to sustainability issues in the frame of the Decade of ESD

- The Programmes of School Activities consist a current form of education that develops in the frame of either the school unit or environmental networks /collaborations of schools.

-Development of National Network of Centres of Environmental Education

-6000 programmes of school activities per year for awareness

-National, regional and local Thematic Networks of school activities (biodiversity, energy, river, etc.)

-Production of educational material at a regional and local level

-Pilot regional programmes (schools for recycling)

-Co-operative activities with public sectors, universities, NGOs, local communities

-The Mediteranean Information Office (MIO –ECSDE) has established the Circle of Mediterranean Journalists for Environment and Sustainable Development(**COMJESD**)in Mediteranean level.

-Press releases of the MoE (YPEHODE),on the occasion of the ratification of the Aarhus Convention by the Hellenic Parliament ,as well as on the transposition of the relevant Directives 2003/4 and 2003/35, for the information of the public on its environmental rights ,published in newspapers and also displayed on the official Website of the MoE.

- An information leaflet on Aarhus Convention was published by the Athens Bar Association contributing in the information of the public on its environmental rights under the Convention..

-A conference on the implementation of the Aarhus Convention was held in 2007 by initiative of the Hellenic Society for the Protection of the Environment and the Cultural

Heritage in cooperation with the Athens Bar Association in which participated the Hellenic Ministry for the Environment, as well as representatives from the Council of State, the Hellenic Ombudsman, the EU ,and other stakeholders.

- A lot of workshops, seminars and presentations were organized, as well as publications and information leaflets were produced by the state competent bodies, for the information and awareness raising of the public and all interested parties on alternative waste management issues.

- According to the opinion of an NGO and a member of the public, a wider public information is necessary concerning the environmental rights provided by Aarhus Convention as well as training lessons on environmental rights included in the curricula of the schools in the framework of environmental education.

(c) The implementation of Special Actions for supporting the NGOs in the field of the Environment ,is financed ,with total budget 1 million Euros in the framework of the Special Service for managing the Operational Programme Environment 2000-2006 (EPPER)and the Operational Programme Environment and Sustainable Development 2007-2013,(EPPERA). In addition a special project on environmental awareness of the citizens is also financed Concerning EPPER the relevant budget comes up to 2 million Euros ,and concerning EPPERAA the relevant budget is not yet defined.

In the same framework of EPPER 2000-2006 a special project on Publicity and Promotion is provided concerning the results from the implementation of the project with total budget 2 millions Euros ,while in EPPERAA the budget of the whole activity is estimated to rise up to 10 million Euros for the period 2007-2013.

- The implementation of the Operational Programmes of the above Managing Special Service,(EPPERA)is monitored regularly by an established Monitoring Committee ,with approved Rules of Procedure ,in which several representatives from competent bodies ,civil society ,and NGOs participate.

- In the framework of Operational Environmental Programmes (OEP) 2000-2006, funds have been bound for environmental awareness raising programmes, with a total budget of 2.8 million €.Funds were made available to school units, classrooms or groups of teachers and students, in order to set up and complete environmental programmes: This led to the founding of more than 200 registered Non-Governmental Environmental and Ecological Organizations in Greece, whose members are often either teachers or former students who had the chance to participate in one of the Environmental Education programmes during their schooling years.

-NGOs in Greece are very active in awareness raising activities and according to the opinion of an NGO they are supported less often by Greek funds and more often by direct EU funds .

22 projects were initiated by Universities and Scientific Institutes in the framework of the Development Assistance Programme of the MoE (YPEHODE), These activities were implemented by 19 Universities and 19 Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) that were included in the Programme; the budget allocated to NGOs reached 45% of the total budget. Projects implemented in the framework of the Programme were fully funded from Greek national funds. Moreover, Greece ,through Ministry of Foreign Affairs supports, coordinates and assists NGOs and other agencies in the implementation of development programmes,in accordance with the UNs Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with the focus on combating poverty.

Greece has been the leading Country of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI), since 2002. MED EUWI also serves as a platform for promoting strategic partnerships between the EU and the Mediterranean and Southeastern European countries as well as between government, civil society and the private sector

NGOs are officially registered and recognized as partners in various Ministries.

In Greece, the general public and the NGOs can submit comments and proposals on environmental issues at the preliminary stages of the decision making process. The Hellenic Ministry for National Education, collaborates with the public sector in a wider range, with the local government and the environmental NGOs for the promotion of the principles of sustainable development and in the frame of initiatives for the academic years

According to the new legislation for the protection and sustainable management of water resources in Greece (Law 3199/2003 - Art. 3, par 6 & Art.6), which integrates the public participation requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the active involvement of interested parties is ensured through their representation to the National and Regional (in the 13 Regional Water Districts) Water Councils that are being developed as part of the new administrative framework of the country. **The National and the 13 Regional Water Councils are advisory boards in which all national and regional interested groups, such as involved organisations, NGOs, etc., are represented.**The national Water Council has already been established by Decision of the Minister of the Environment

According to L. 1650/86 and L. 2742/99, twenty seven Management Bodies have been established in protected areas of Greece . Administrational Councils of these bodies are composed by representatives of central, regional and local authorities, representatives of local stakeholders groups, researchers and NGOs. Management Bodies were supported by the 3rd Community Support Framework and national funds.Moreover the Natura 2000 Committee (provided under Law 2742/1999) consists of representatives from Ministries, Universities and NGOs.

Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt, Font color: Auto

English (U.K.)

Actions for the management of protected species are undertaken in the framework of various projects. Major projects have been funded by the European Commission Financial Instrument Life-Nature. National funds (ETERPS Fund from the Ministry of the Environment) have also been allocated. Major beneficiaries of these projects are Research institutes, Development Companies and NGOs.

Projects aiming mainly to the implementation of nature conservation actions have been financed also from a national funding instrument which incorporates a percentage of the money coming from the tax for gas. Through this instrument (ETERPS Fund) approximately 7,5 million € (from national funds) were allocated for the period 2000 – 2007 including the Programme “**Voluntarism and Environmental Protection**” (total amount 1 million euros),and the Programme on Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development. Moreover, the Ministry has drawn up the Register of Environmental Non Governmental Organisations.

In total, around 260 environmental NGOs have been inventoried, in mid 2007, nation-wide. **by the ‘Environmental Team of the Institute of urban and Rural Sociology of the National Centre for Social Research’** (<http://www.ekke.gr/estia/> **under a project financed by the Hellenic Ministry for the Environment .**

In Greece there is not one single entity responsible for registering and inventorying NGOs active both on general as well as on environmental matters. Apart from the above inventory , registries are also kept by Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoA), for different purposes. Besides YPEHODE has also inventoried environmental NGOs which it has funded over the years, either as core funding or for the implementation of specific projects following a certain call. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the other hand, and in particular its Service for the implementation of the Development Assistance and Cooperation Programme of Greece, the so-called “Hellenic Aid” Service, is inventorying (since 2000) NGOs active in all fields (e.g. medicine, humanitarian, environment, education etc), which fulfil certain “quality” criteria and are, thus, able to receive state funding to implement, as intermediaries, development aid and cooperation projects in third/developing/recipient countries.

(d) Greece promotes the principles of the Aarhus Convention of transparency, access to information and public participation in international forums ,in international environmental negotiations and decisions –making processes. The Greek Ministry for the Environment as well as other Ministries are inviting NGOs representatives to participate as experts in international meetings. Those representatives have as far as possible been included in Greek delegations as expert members ,for which their travel expenses have been partially or fully reimbursed. NGOs can also participate upon invitation ,in national preparatory meetings for international meetings.

Greece ,through Ministry of Foreign Affairs supports, coordinates and assists NGOs and other agencies in the implementation of development programmes, in accordance with the UNs Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with the focus on combating poverty. Ministry of Foreign Affairs through YDAS-2 handles Greeces relations with the OECDs DAC, participating in its Working Groups and Networks, as well as in the Ministerial Councils

NGOs were invited by the Ministry for Environment to participate in environmental performance review preparation under the auspices of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).(2007-2008).

Greece has been the leading Country of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI), since 2002 which serves as a platform for promoting strategic partnerships between the EU and the Mediterranean as well as between government, civil society and the private sector. One of the key recent developments , is the initiation of the ‘**Country Policy Dialogues**’ on water for Mediterranean non-EU partner countries.

The partner countries of the Development Assistance Programme of MoE (YPEHODE) belonged to the wider geographic regions of S.E. Europe, and activities were implemented by NGOs and Universities which covered inter alia **capacity building** as well as **environmental information and awareness ,training and education on environment and sustainable development.** The actions and projects selected for funding were characterised by applicability, sustainability, perspective of actions, transferability, as well as **accountability and transparency of all activities.**

Participation of Greece in High Level International Meeting of Education and Environment Ministries in Vilnius (Lithuania) promoting environmental education,ESD and awareness.

Participation in the 6th Conference of Ministers of Environment, “Environment for Europe”.(Belgrade 2007)

Project of Associated Schools with the UNESCO: The implementation of programs within the framework of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, where UNESCO is the lead agency, by 20 of the 80 schools participating in the network

SEMEP:Participation of Greece in the South Eastern Mediterranean Environmental Project, a network of 40 schools. It began as Program of environmental education. The Marine Environment Protection Directorate is leading the adoption and implementation of international measures to actively participating with representatives in international meetings of International organisations ,regional organizations and conventions (IMO, REMPEC Official launching of the UN decade for the Sustainable Development in the Mediterannean Area ,in Athens where the principles of the Aarhus Convention were mentioned by the Ministry for the Environment(2005)EU et.)

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/3/2010 3:38:00 PM**
Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt, Font color: Auto

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/3/2010 3:38:00 PM**
Font: Times New Roman

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/3/2010 3:38:00 PM**
Font: Times New Roman, Font color: Auto

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 2:37:00 PM**
Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 2:37:00 PM**
Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 2:37:00 PM**
Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 2:37:00 PM**
Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 2:37:00 PM**
Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 2:51:00 PM**
Font: (Default) Times New Roman, English (U.K.)

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 2:44:00 PM**
Font: (Default) Times New Roman, English (U.K.)

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 2:44:00 PM**
Font: (Default) Times New Roman, English (U.K.)

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 2:44:00 PM**
Font: (Default) Times New Roman, English (U.K.)

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 2:44:00 PM**
Font: (Default) Times New Roman, English (U.K.)

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 2:44:00 PM**
Font: (Default) Times New Roman, English (U.K.)

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 2:44:00 PM**
Font: (Default) Times New Roman, English (U.K.)

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 2:44:00 PM**
Font: (Default) Times New Roman, English (U.K.)

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 2:44:00 PM**
Font: (Default) Times New Roman, English (U.K.)

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:03:00 PM**
Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:03:00 PM**
Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:03:00 PM**
Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:03:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:03:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:03:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:03:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [18] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:03:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [19] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:12:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [19] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:12:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [19] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:12:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [19] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:12:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [20] Formatted **IFLOW15** **11/23/2010 2:24:00 PM**

Font: 11.5 pt

Page 1: [21] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/2/2010 1:06:00 PM**

Font: Times New Roman, Font color: Auto, English (U.K.)

Page 1: [22] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**

Font: Times New Roman, Font color: Auto, English (U.K.)

Page 1: [23] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/2/2010 1:06:00 PM**
Font: Times New Roman, Font color: Auto, English (U.K.)

Page 1: [24] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
Font: Times New Roman, Font color: Auto, English (U.K.)

Page 1: [25] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/2/2010 12:40:00 PM**
Font: Times New Roman, Font color: Auto, English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [26] Formatted **mama2** **12/20/2010 4:33:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [27] Formatted **IFLOW15** **11/25/2010 2:33:00 PM**
Font: Italic

Page 1: [27] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/3/2010 3:36:00 PM**
Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt

Page 1: [28] Formatted **mama2** **12/15/2010 7:03:00 AM**
Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt

Page 1: [28] Formatted mama2 12/15/2010 7:03:00 AM

Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt, Not Bold

Page 1: [28] Formatted mama2 12/15/2010 7:03:00 AM

Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt

Page 1: [28] Formatted mama2 12/15/2010 7:03:00 AM

Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt, Font color: Auto

Page 1: [28] Formatted mama2 12/15/2010 7:03:00 AM

Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt

Page 1: [29] Deleted mama2 1/22/2011 8:46:00 PM

There is constant information of the institutions of the Greek shipping industry and other specialized institutions, shipping center operators in our country eg ELKETHE about international forums and meetings for the environment to give them the possibility to participate.

With initiative of Marine Environment Protection Directorate a (CD ROM) entitled “ Clean sea reflects our culture” distributed in all departments of the Ministry of Civil Protection (Port Authorities productive faculty Coast Guard and Merchant Marine Academies and other agencies (collaborating Ministries educational institutions, port authorities etc)

The contribution of Greece in the natural disaster in South –East Asia, the development and humanitarian assistance offered by Greek State agencies, and the ever expanding presence of Civil Society in international assistance projects show that the awareness of Greek public opinion has indeed been raised and that the view that our country must participate and assist countries that face natural disasters has taken root. Greece supports such initiatives and is participating in the discussions already taking place within the UN framework with interventions **intended to increase transparency** and enhance the UN control systems while making its actions more effective.

During the Hellenic Chairmanship of the Human Security Network¹ (HSN) (May 2007-May 2008) Greece chose to focus its activities on the human security implications of climate change in developing countries. The objective of the Hellenic Chairmanship was to raise awareness on the impact that changing living conditions, as a result of climate change, can have on peoples' security in developing countries, with a special emphasis on three specifically vulnerable groups, namely women, children and populations fleeing their homes as a result of climate change.

Seeking to actively contribute to the international dialogue for adequate policy planning to confront climate change implications on human security, the Hellenic Chairmanship proceeded, in co-operation with competent International Organizations, to the elaboration of a number of relevant policy texts. To this end, the Hellenic Chairmanship of the HSN, in co-operation with the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), collected and then presented an overview of existing studies on the impact of climate change on human security of vulnerable groups in the developing world. Based on the former, and in collaboration with prominent Greek and International Research Centers, the Hellenic Chairmanship began preparing in 2008, policy papers on the impact of climate change on the three aforementioned vulnerable groups: a policy paper on the impact of climate change on children, drafted in collaboration with UNICEF, a policy paper on Climate change and Women, drafted in collaboration with the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) and a policy paper on persons fleeing their homes as a result of climate change, in collaboration with the United Nations University. Finally, a comprehensive policy paper was elaborated in co-operation with the International Institute for Environment and Development and under the supervision of leading climate change expert, Dr. Saleemul Huq, on *Development Co-operation and the Impact of Climate Change on Human Security*. The main findings and policy proposals of these papers were presented at a High-Level International Conference (Athens, May 2008) concluding the works of the Hellenic HSN Chairmanship.

Awareness raising events organized by the Hellenic Presidency:

A series of events, highlighting the issue of climate change impact on human security, were organized on the Hellenic Chairmanship's initiative, in co-operation with International Organisations and other members of the H.S. Network:

¹ The Human Security Network (HSN) is an informal international forum in co-operation with international organizations, civil society and the academia, aiming at raising awareness at the international level regarding new forms of threats that endanger human security. Member states of the HSN include: Canada, Norway, Switzerland, Ireland, Austria, Slovenia, Jordan, Mali, Chile, Costa Rica, Thailand, as well as South Africa with observer status.

Climate Change and Human Security (Athens, November 27th 2007), in co-operation with UNEP/MAP: Launching event, first presentation of UNDP's "Human Development Report 2007/2008 Fighting climate change: Human solidarity in a divided world". The event also hosted a poster exhibition and a children paintings' exhibition, in co-operation with UNEP/MAP.

Climate Change Human Security Implications on Children (Bali, December 10th 2007/New York, December 12th 2007), in cooperation with UNICEF: side events of the International Conference on Climate Change in Bali and the UN General Assembly's Special Session on Children, in New York.

Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and Migration: Addressing Vulnerabilities and Harnessing Opportunities", (Geneva, February 19th 2008) in cooperation with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

Climate Change and Human Security: Women, a most vulnerable group, (Vienna, March 13th 2008), in co-operation with the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

International Conference on Climate Change – Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Human Security Network (Athens, May 29th – 30th 2008)

Finally, with the sponsorship of the Greek MFA, an extended synopsis of the *Stern report: "The economics of Climate Change"* was translated in the Greek language, published and presented to the general public (November 2008).

In Greece, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs responsible for International Development Cooperation is also named "Special Representative for Climate Change". As a consequence, the Hellenic Ministry for Foreign Affairs organizes and/or participates in a series of awareness raising events on environmental issues such as climate change, sustainable development, green growth etc. An indicative list of such events where the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs participated as a speaker, from end 2008 to 2010, includes:

Participation in the ECONOMIST CONFERENCES SECOND SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT "The Green Agenda after Copenhagen" (Athens, 20/10/2010)

Organization of a conference on «Green Energy, Entrepreneurship and Extroversion» (Athens, 14/4/2010)

Presentation of the outcomes of the Copenhagen Summit to the general public by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs (open lecture) (Athens, 14/1/2010)

Participation in the Socialist International Summit on Environment (Budva, Montenegro, 30/6/2009).

Participation in the launching event of "Environmental Marathon" an initiative of the NGO Quality Net Foundation under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministries of Environment, of Foreign Affairs, Education and the City of Athens (Athens, 25/6/2009)

Presentation by the Deputy Foreign Minister "Sustainable development and Green Growth" at Evgenidio Institute (Athens, 13/02/2009)

Participation in «The Athens Summit 2008, Global Climate & Energy Security» (Athens, 6/05/2008)

Athens Industry and Commerce Association Conference on "State-NGOs & International Organization: Pillars for the Environment in a modern European Union" (Athens, 23/10/2008).

Cooperation between Greece and nine European countries for the prevention and monitoring of forest fires promoted by the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, with its participation in the program entitled «European Forest Fire Monitoring using Information Systems - EFFMIS». The inaugural project meeting held, November 30, 2010, at the offices of

The program focuses on sharing best practices among the states participating in the development of regional action plans for effective use of information systems to protect natural resources from forest fires. Moreover, it explores how each region can align its national policies with relevant EU legislation.

The EFFMIS focuses on the establishment of an open platform for cooperation between government agencies, scientific community and relevant management authorities. Promotes open dialogue, synthesis of views and the creation of a widely accepted at the regional level, practice and policy that seeks increased use of IT to provide effective protection of natural resources of forests. The program EFFMIS of particular interest to in achieving the objectives of the Operational Programme "Environment - Sustainable Development".

The Ministry participates in the project as a partner in the consortium, which includes eleven players from cooperating countries: Greece, United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Lithuania, Poland, Bulgaria and Slovenia). The Consortium, including specialized agencies with considerable expertise, such as Wood & Forest Services Center of Castilla & Leon, Spain, the San Marco Project Research Centre - University of Rome, Italy, the Executive Forest Agency of Bulgaria, the Forest Research Institute of Poland, the Lithuanian Forest Institute and the Slovenian Forestry Institute of Slovenia.

(e) In Greece there is a complete legal framework, as already mentioned, ensuring the exercise of the rights of the persons under the Aarhus Convention. The right of access to information, is provided and guaranteed by the Hellenic Constitution as well as by “Administrative Procedure Code”.

According to Article 4&1 of the Hellenic Constitution all Greek citizens are equal before the law. Citizens have also the constitutional right of previous hearing. Articles 4 to 25 of the Hellenic Constitution provide for the protection of human rights, including the free development of one’s personality and recognize the value of human dignity.

Every act of the State must be in conformity with the law and it must also be provided for by a law. Besides and according to the opinion of an NGO the Environmental NGOs can be critical of governmental actions, decisions, etc. without repercussions (if there is a real basis for criticism).

The citizens, in the framework of their protection, have several possibilities for administrative and judicial review as well as actions for compensation according to the civil liability provisions . (see more information under Article 9 of the Convention)

Describe any **obstacles encountered** in the implementation of any of the paragraphs of article 3 listed above.

Answer:

The obstacles and problems identified and stated by the involved public authorities are:

Non-flexible timetable which does not facilitate the relationship between school and society through active learning
Incomplete training of educators
Non existence of up-to-date relevant educational material
Non existence of institutional framework of co-operation with NGOs
Activities of educators and students on voluntary base (single-digit number percentage of educators and students who participate in programmes)
Little / insufficient financial support in the framework of environmental education.
The implementation of the Aarhus Convention is a major task which demands the collaboration of several Ministries and sectors as well as Regions, Prefectures and Local Government.
Lack of sufficient resources
According to the opinion of an NGO there is no apparent link with issues relating to access to justice concerning environmental issues in school curricula. However, it is not yet clear what these links should be. Through ESD implementation, the development of critical thinking of students could be interpreted indirectly as serving towards this purpose.

Provide further information on the **practical application of the general provisions of the Convention.**

Answer:

Give relevant web site addresses, if available:

Answer: <http://www.mfa.gr>, <http://www.yen.gr>,
<http://www.ypepth.gr>,

Article 4

List legislative, regulatory and other measures that implement the provisions on access to

environmental information in article 4.

Explain how each paragraph of article 4 has been implemented. Describe the transposition of

the relevant definitions in article 2 and the non-discrimination requirement in article 3, paragraph 9.

Also, and in particular, describe:

(a) With respect to **paragraph 1**, measures taken to ensure that:

(i) Any person may have access to information without having to state an interest;

(ii) Copies of the actual documentation containing or comprising the requested

information are supplied;

(iii) The information is supplied in the form requested;

(b) Measures taken to ensure that the time limits provided for in **paragraph 2** are

respected;

(c) With respect to **paragraphs 3 and 4**, measures taken to:

(i) Provide for exemptions from requests;

(ii) Ensure that the public interest test at the end of paragraph 4 is applied;

(d) With respect to **paragraph 5**, measures taken to ensure that a public authority that

does not hold the environmental information requested takes the necessary action;

(e) With respect to **paragraph 6**, measures taken to ensure that the requirement to

separate out and make available information is implemented;

(f) With respect to **paragraph 7**, measures taken to ensure that refusals meet the

time limits and the other requirements with respect to refusals;

(g) With respect to **paragraph 8**, measures taken to ensure that the requirements on

charging are met.

Answer: Concerning relevant definitions in article 2 and the non discrimination requirement in article 3 see information under article 5.

(a)(i) In Greece, access to environmental information of any person **without having to state an interest** ,is provided first of all under Law 3422/12-12-2005

(OJG A 303/2005).Access to environmental information of any person without having to state an interest is also ensured in the Article 3 par 1 of the Joint Ministerial Decision 11764/653/2006 (OJG B 327/17-3-2006). According to this Article of the above JMD every natural or legal person is entitled to access to environmental information by submitting a relevant written request without having to state an interest .The written request enters the Public Authority's register(protocol)under a certain number and a registration receipt is given to the applicant.

According to the Hellenic Constitution (Article 10) the competent service or authority is obliged to reply to requests for information and for issuing documents,(see more under Article 3) According to Article 5 par 1 of Law 2690/1999 regarding Administrative Procedure Code every interested person is entitled to access to administrative documents by submitting a relevant request. A special interest is required only for access to private documents held by Public Authorities ,on matter concerning the applicant.(Article 5 para 2 of Law 2690/1999). Finally, Directive 2003/98/EC on the further use of public sector information has been incorporated into the Greek legislation by Law 3448/2006, providing the right for further use by persons or legal entities of documents held by public sector bodies, for commercial or non-commercial purposes other than the initial purpose for which the documents wereoriginally produced.

(a)(ii) According to Law 3422/12-12-2005(OJG A 303/2005) Public Authorities in response to a request of environmental information make such information available to the public including where requested copies of the actual documentation containing or comprising such information .The Article 7 of the Joint Ministerial Decision 11764/653/2006 also ensures that Public Authorities provide for copies of the actual documentation upon request and some exceptions are provided concerning the form or format of the required information. (see below (a)(iii)) . The Article 5 of Administrative Procedure Code” referring to access to documents (OJG A45/9-3-1999) provides and regulates similar issues. Upon an application, the Special Environmental Service and the other competent departments provide in due time the information requested concerning official documents or other documentation concerning the EIA/SEA files submitted to it, as soon as the public participation process has begun. No internal consultation document concerning open judicial procedures is provided.

(iii) Taking into account those referred in the above point (ii)and according to Article 4 par 1 (b) (i) (ii)of the Convention ratified by law 3422/2005 and Article 3 par 7 of the

JMD 11764/653/2006 ,the form or format of the information is supplied as follows: Where an applicant requests a public authority to make environmental information available in a specific form or format(including in the form of copies),the public authority makes it available unless it is already publicly available in another form or format , which is easily accessible by applicants.Further details on the above issue are regulating under the above JMD.(Art.3 para 7).

(b) The time limits of the Article 4 par 2 of the Convention are met in the Law 3422/2005 .The environmental information is made available as soon as possible and at the latest within one month after the request has been submitted, unless the volume and the complexity of the information justify an extension of this period up to two months.

In addition the aforementioned time limits of the Convention are fully met (**to the stricter**) in Article 3 par 3 of the JMD 11764/653/2006 .More specifically Public Authorities, having regard to any timescale specified by the applicant , make available environmental information held by or for them to any applicant at his request , at the latest within 20 days after the receipt of the request by the public Authority or within 2 months after the receipt of the request, if the volume and the complexity of the information is such that the 20 days period cannot be complied with.

Besides Law 2690/1999 “Administrative Procedure Code” (OJG A45/9-3-1999)stipulates also in Article 4 relevant time limits for Public Authorities (60 days at the latest)and in Article 5 -one month- time limit after the receipt of the request for informing the applicant of any rejection of his request. Additionally, according to the Hellenic Constitution the competent authority is obliged to reply to requests for information and for issuing documents, especially certificates, supporting documents and attestations within a set deadline not exceeding 60 days, as specified by law.

In case this deadline elapses without action or in case of unlawful refusal, in addition to any other sanctions and consequences at law, special compensation is also paid to the applicant, as specified by law. (article 10, par.3 of the Hellenic Constitution 1975/1986/2001).

According to Article 5A of the Hellenic Constitution 1. All persons are entitled to information, as specified by law. Restrictions to this right may be imposed by law only insofar as they are absolutely necessary and justified for reasons of national security, of combating crime or of protecting rights and interests of third parties and 2. All persons are entitled to participate in the Information Society. Facilitation of access to electronically handled information, as well as of the production, exchange and diffusion thereof constitutes an obligation of the State, always in observance of the guarantees of articles 9, 9A and 19. It is generally considered that according to the above Constitution provisions’ a general civil right of access to information is established

(c)(i) The public authorities may refuse the request for accessing to environmental information for the reasons and exceptions provided under Article 4 par 3 and 4 of the Convention ratified by Law 3422/2005 ,as well as under Article 4 of the

JMD 11764/653/2006 which transposed Directive 2003/4. Additionally Administrative Procedure Code (Law 2690/1999 (art.5) and law 1599/86 art.16 stipulate certain cases in which Public Authorities may refuse the request to accessing to administrative documents . The reasons of refuse of the request under the Aarhus Convention are fully met in the above JMD which transposed EU Directive 2003/4 . Public Authorities may not provide for a request to be refused if where the request relates to information on emissions into the environment. Concerning the confidentiality of personal data Public Authorities take into consideration the requirements of the provisions of law 2472/1997(A 50) through which Directive 95/46/EC , on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data, has been transposed.

(c) (ii) According to Article 4 par 2 of the above JMD 11764/653/2006 ,the grounds for refusal mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the same Article are interpreted in a restrictive way ,taking into account for the particular case the public interest served by disclosure. In every particular case, the public interest served by disclosure shall be weighed against the interest served by the refusal. Further details on the above issue are regulated by the same article of the above JMD which transposed Directive 2003/4. For the purposes of the application of (subpar.f)concerning the confidentiality of personal data, relating to a natural person ,Public Authorities take into consideration the requirements of the provisions of Law 2472/1997 (A50) which has transposed Directive 95/54/EC on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data .

(d) According to article 3 par 4 of the JMD 11764/653/2006,if the information requested is not held by or for the public authority to which the request is addressed , the public authority transfers the request to the competent authority within 3 days and informs the applicant accordingly. Besides according to Article 4 par. 1 of Law 2690/1999 “Administrative Procedure Code” (OJG A45/9-3-1999)if the request is addressed to a Public Authority which is not responsible for a response ,the public Authority transfers the request to the competent authority within 5 days and also informs the applicant accordingly.

(e) According to Article 4 par.5 of the JMD 11764/653/2006 environmental information held by or for public authorities which has been requested by an applicant is made available in part where it is possible to separate out any information, falling within the scope of par. 1 (d) and (e) or par 2 from the rest of the information requested. Paragraph 1 (d) concerns material in the course of completion or unfinished documents or data and par 1 (e) internal communications .and par 2 concerns cases for a request for environmental information to be refused.

(f) According to law 3422/2005 the refusal is made as soon as possible and at the latest within one month unless the complexity of the information justifies an extension of this period up to 2 months after the request. According to article 4 par 6 of JMD 11764/653/2006 is provided a stricter time limit .More specifically a refusal to make

available all or part of the environmental information requested is notified to the applicant in writing or electronically, within 20 days or, in case of complexity of information, 2 months. Further details on this issue are regulated by the above JMD through which EU Directive was transposed. Besides according to Law 2690/1999 ("Administrative Procedure Code") the refusal to access to administrative documents should also state the reason for the refusal and be notified to the applicant at the latest within 1 month from the receipt of the request.

- (g) According to Article 5 of the JMD 11764/653/2006 access to any public registers or lists established and maintained as and examination in situ of the information requested is free of charge. Public Authorities do not make any charge for supplying any environmental information. Yet it is provided that under a relevant JMD-not yet edited- public authorities may make a charge for supplying any environmental information, but such charge shall not exceed a reasonable amount.

Describe any **obstacles encountered** in the implementation of any of the paragraphs of article 4.

Answer:

The obstacles and problems identified and stated by the involved public authorities are

Lack of resources (staff, funds for copies e.t.c.)

In many cases the requests are general or unreasonable and Administration asks the applicant to submit documentation with more details.

In many cases there is a complexity and a volume of requested information and for this reason a collaboration with other authorities is required.

Administration informs the applicant within the time limits mentioned above.

A possible excess of the provided time limits by the Public Authorities is stated as a possible obstacle in the implementation of this Article.

Limited difficulties, concerning the interpretation and management of the definition "environmental information" identified in some cases such as the required annual balance sheet of a legal person performing public administrative functions under national law and some difficulties raised concerning the exceptions and in particular the identification of confidentiality of industrial information

Provide further information on the **practical application of the provisions on access to**

information, e.g. are there any statistics available on the number of requests made, the number of refusals and their reasons?

Answer: Most of the departments do not have available statistical data. A few departments can provide such statistical information upon request.

Give relevant web site addresses, if available:

, www.ggb.gr.

Additional information

Article 5

List legislative, regulatory and other measures that implement the provisions on the collection and dissemination of environmental information in article 5.

Explain how each paragraph of article 5 has been implemented. Describe the transposition of the

relevant definitions in article 2 and the non-discrimination requirement in article 3, paragraph 9.

Also, and in particular, describe:

- (a) With respect to **paragraph 1**, measures taken to ensure that:
- (i) Public authorities possess and update environmental information;
 - (ii) There is an adequate flow of information to public authorities;
 - (iii) In emergencies, appropriate information is disseminated immediately and without delay;
- (b) With respect to **paragraph 2**, measures taken to ensure that the way in which public authorities make environmental information available to the public is transparent and that environmental information is effectively accessible;
- (c) With respect to **paragraph 3**, measures taken to ensure that environmental information progressively becomes available in electronic databases which are easily accessible to the public through public telecommunications networks;
- (d) With respect to **paragraph 4**, measures taken to publish and disseminate national reports on the state of the environment;
- (e) Measures taken to disseminate the information referred to in **paragraph 5**;
- (f) With respect to **paragraph 6**, measures taken to encourage operators whose activities have a significant impact on the environment to inform the public regularly of the environmental impact of their activities and products;
- (g) Measures taken to publish and provide information as required in **paragraph 7**;
- (h) With respect to **paragraph 8**, measures taken to develop mechanisms with a view

to ensuring that sufficient product information is made available to the public;

(i) With respect to **paragraph 9**, measures taken to establish a nationwide system of

pollution inventories or registers.

Answer:

Law 3422/2005 provides for collection and dissemination of environmental information. Besides Article 7 of JMD 11764/653/2006 (OJG B 327/17-3-2006) which transposed Directive 2003/4/EC, regulates also dissemination of environmental information through electronic databases and public telecommunication networks.

The relevant definitions of the Article 2 and the non-discrimination requirement in Article 3 of the Convention are described and met in Law 3422/2005 by which the Aarhus Convention was ratified. The above Article 2 definitions of the Convention are also met in Article 2 of JMD 11764/653/2006 which transposed Directive 2003/4/EC.

In addition according to Article 4 par 1,2& 3 of Hellenic Constitution (1975/1986/2001) all Greeks are equal before the law. Greek men and women have equal rights and equal obligations. All persons possessing the qualifications for citizenship as specified by law are Greek citizens. Article 5A par 1 and 2 of the Hellenic Constitution also states that all persons are entitled to information, as specified by law and all persons are entitled to participate in the Information Society. Besides Law 3304/2005 on the "Implementing of the principle of equal treatment regardless of racial or ethnic origin, religious or other beliefs, disability, age or sexual orientation" constitutes a landmark in the promotion of the principle of equality and the protection of human rights in Greece. By this law two EU Directives were transposed into the Greek legislation: EC Directives 2000/78 and 2000/43 "for the promotion of the principle of equal treatment and the fight against discrimination on grounds of race, nationality, religion or belief, disability, age, sexual orientation".

There are also two bodies in Greece with similar responsibilities both assigned with combating discrimination in the private sector: the Labour Inspectorate (SEPE), whose competence covers ordinary employment contracts, and the Equal Treatment Committee (ETC) of the Ministry of Justice, whose competence covers the rest of the private sector. The General Secretariat for Equality of the Ministry of the Interior also plays an important role in the implementation of the principle of equal treatment and the gender equality. At the same time a Permanent Committee on Equality and on Human Rights as well as a Permanent Committee on Institutions and on Transparency operate in the Greek Parliament.

5(a)(i.)

3-

Reports on Air Pollution Levels

The daily Report on Air Pollution Levels indicates the air pollution as reported by the Ministry's measuring stations in Attica and Oenofita (Boeotia prefecture). Information is also given in case of exceedance of the Public Information and Alarm levels...>>

?According to Law 3851/2010 (art.2 para 2) the Investor Service for RES projects **includes in the register** any decision of licensing production electricity from renewable energy issued by the Regulatory Authority for Energy (RAE) after completion of review of such decisions.

Data update RES

With a view to informing stakeholders about the licensing changes in RES projects by technology and expertise for Photovoltaics, the record of the data in tables is updated, initially every three months

The data collection is achieved in collaboration RES Service the Regulatory Authority for Energy (RAE), the Greek Operator System Operator (TSO) and Administrators Network and non-interconnected islands.?

As part of initiatives to re-use of public information, freedom of geospatial data distribution and freedom of access to legislation and decisions of the administration have been voted three related laws:

the [Law 3448/2006](#) For further use of public sector s data and the regulation of matters concerning the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization. (GG A/57/15.04.2010)

the [Law 3882/2010](#) National Geospatial Information Infrastructure Transposition of Directive 2007/2/EC (**Inspire**) of the European Parliament and Council of March 14, 2007 and other provisions. (GG A/166/22.09.2010). **The term Spatial Data Infrastructure "means an institutional and technical framework for coordinating data collection, use and distribution of spatial data and**

the [Law 3861/2010](#) (112/13.7.2010 Gazette, Issue A) for [Program "Diavgeia"](#)(Clarity)enhancing transparency through mandatory display on the internet and disclosure of decisions and acts of administration. Specifically :

Program "Diavgeia" ("Clarity"): **Law 3861/2010 (G.G.12 / A ' / 13.7.2010)**introduced the mandatory display of laws and acts of government, administrative bodies and local authority on the Internet on a special website of the program **Diavgeia" ("Clarity")** ,thus enhancing transparency of government action. Law is implemented from October 1, 2010 and decisions and actions are displayed on the internet, on official site " diavgeia ", coordinated by the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization (YESAID). The Law aims to enhance public awareness and access to information, to achieve the fullest possible disclosure of government policy and administrative action ,to ensure modern means of online communication and the transparency of government action, resulting in responsibility and accountability on the part of bodies exercising public authority and thus the achievement of sound public administration.

Furthermore, a broad online display of the laws and acts enhances the opportunities for citizens to enjoy and exercise their constitutionally protected rights, namely: primarily the right to information as provided in Article 5 § 1 A of the Constitution and hence the constitutionally protected rights attaching to or and rely on this information, including the right to personal development, participation in social, economic and political life (Article 5 § 1 S) and the right to participate in the Information Society (Article 5 § 2 A T).

National Information System for Energy:(NISE).The purpose of **NISE** of the **YPEKA**, is to develop infrastructure for energy information services to the public and the creation of a computational tool to support decision making on Energy Policy and Planning.**The main sections of NISE**.include:related to energy agencies, legislation, standards.. It comprises of :

A Database descriptive information

A Database Statistical information concerning the production, transformation and consumption.

The management subsystem of energy statistics is a simplified energy analysis tool, which can simulate the energy system as a flow of energy products through energy processes. In this way allows the extraction of quantitative data that are useful in studies analyzing the energy system

A Geographic Information System (GIS) which manages all the spatial information related to the energy system (energy network maps, locations, deposits of natural resources relating to energy) and maps potential of Renewable Energy

National Information System for Energy (NISE) Of **YPEKA** developed by the Centre for Renewable Energy and **(MoEECC)** under Measure 3.4.9 Operational Energy Program of the Second Community Support Framework. The expansion and integration was supported by the project "Integrated System of energy policy "of the Operational Programme" Information Society "of the Third Community Support Framework. The system also includes scores of projects to assess the potential of Renewable Energy which were implemented by CRES in the works of the second and third Community Support Framework. The information system shall be the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change and technical support from the Centre for Renewable Energy.

RES (Renewable Energy Sources) the s of ,, The annual inventories of greenhouse gas emissions in Greece provide information on emissions of greenhouse gases and other gases from energy production and transport, industrial processes, solvent and other products, agriculture, waste and use changes land and forestry. The inventory describes the methods for calculating emissions, presented activity data and emission factors used and calculate the uncertainty in the estimation of emissions.

The annual national inventories submitted each April 15 to the Secretariat of the Convention on Climate Change and cover emissions from 1990 until two years prior to submission. The inventories of Greece for the years 1990-2008 were submitted to the UN Secretariat on Climate Change on April 15, 2010.

The national reports (communications) are a requirement of our country to the Secretariat of the Convention on Climate Change and submitted at specified intervals specified by the Secretariat of the Convention. Include state policies and measures pursued by individual countries to reduce emissions and actions to raise awareness and education on climate change and the description of adaptation measures. The first national report submitted in 1995 and the last (fifth National Report) on 18/01/2010.

The [European Environment Agency](#) publish annually an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions, which presents an overview of trends at European level. The most recent census published in June 2010.

Emission Monitoring and Reporting

According to JMD 54409/2632/2004, the operator of any facility shall

- a. to monitor greenhouse gas emissions from the installation and
- b. to submit to Emissions Trading Office an audited report. This report was prepared in accordance with the principles of monitoring and reporting requirements set out in Annex IV and with the guidelines laid down in Decision [2007/589/EC](#) the European Commission on January 29, 2004, issued pursuant to Article 14 (paragraph 1) of Directive 2003/87/EC and verified by accredited verifiers from the National Accreditation Body (ESYD).

The reports submitted by 31 March each year with the emission of the immediately preceding calendar year. The delay in reporting results in the imposition of fines referred to in Article 20 of the CMD.

Register

The [National Center for Environment and Sustainable Development \(NCESD\)](#) in collaboration with G.E.D.E. establish and maintain a register to record the precise issue, holding, transfer and cancellation rights. The creation and maintenance of the register is under [Regulation \(EC\) 916/2007](#) the European Commission.

Ministry for the Environment operates the following monitoring systems to assure the production and update of environmental data for the following environmental sectors: Air Quality, Air emissions, Water Quality and Quantity, Industry, Emissions from Stationary combustion sources installations and Vehicles, Fuel, Waste, Noise.

Main Monitoring and Inventory activities
Air Quality monitoring
Water Quality, Water Quantity and Ecological Status monitoring
Air emissions monitoring (main industrial installations emissions)
Combustion and fuel monitoring programs
Inventory of Local and Waste Management Authorities reporting on waste quantities, treatment and management
Noise monitoring

Environmental Inspectorate monitoring

Air Emissions Trade Registry

Datasets

Water Quality, Water Quantity and Ecological Status

River Basins

Waste Water Treatment Plants

Air Quality

Air Emissions

Industries and other installations

Combustion

Stationary combustion sources installations

Vehicles

Nature and Biodiversity

NATURA 2000 network.

Habitat types within Natura 2000

Noise

Noise measurements from motorcycles

In situ measurements of noise from installations

Measurements from noise control stations

Noise barriers and implementation bodies

Environmental Impact Assessments

Waste

Waste generation sources
Waste treatment and final disposal installations
Hazardous waste
Municipal waste
Register of waste management bodies
CORINE LAND COVER

5 (a) (ii) The National Network for Environmental Information (NNEI) is an important action towards this direction. It comprises of a horizontal mechanism for the collection and dissemination of data, through intranet or internet, in relation to the main environmental sectors (air, water, nature, waste, emissions, legislation). It is

a national repository of environmental data and a mechanism for exchanging data between relevant environmental administrative services as well as for providing data to the public.

A new project is promoted today under the E.C. Structural Funds for the modernisation and extension of the network in order to become Web based, to involve more environmental organisations as active users and more external interested people and organisations as viewers. Most of the data of the system will be available to the public. It will also include spatial data and services providing support for responding with environmental data to the INSPIRE Directive. The content of the System concerns the main environmental topic areas where the Ministry collects data (air, water, natural environment, wastes, Combustion, Fuels, Industry, Noise, environmental impact assessment studies and areas like waste recycling, Ozon Depleting Substances, Physical Planning, etc.). A new functionality will be added based on INTERNET technologies to facilitate and encourage electronic submission of Environmental Impact Assessment studies which will also provide more visibility on this area.

The system will also include functionalities for serving the national node for SEIS (ongoing call for tender), for supporting national EIONET communication as well as for operating the Clearing House Mechanism for the Aarhus Convention.

(5) (a) (iii) Air pollution episode

In case of air pollution episode: Information on the evolution on hourly basis through

INTERNET - Radio and TV messages – implementation of relevant measures

(directions to people affected etc)

Flood Protection and Prevention

According to the new law on water (3199/2003), transposition into national law of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the Regional Water Directorates (total: 13) are the competent authorities for taking the appropriate measures for flood mitigation on a river basin basis.

Forecasting and early warning

This issue is handled in Greece by several operational centres. Comprehensive activities and plans that have been undertaken in the field of early warning and forecasting in our country include:

Traditional measuring instruments, radar and numerical weather forecasts.

Identification and mapping of high-risk areas through the “National Bank of Hydrological and Meteorological Information”, a data bank in which all the hydrological and meteorological data measured during the last 100 years have been collected and elaborated, using the most updated computer science and telecommunications.

Development of an effective and reliable early-warning and forecasting system, supported by meteorological information, to inform, at respective level, flood authorities and citizens in threatened areas.

National emergency plan for Civil Protection (XENOKRATIS), covering the emergency management before, during and after the flood events.

Measures linked to public information and awareness raising: information for the general public through the media (TV, leaflets, posters, internet, etc.) on possible flooding events because of forecasted heavy rains and thunderstorms and on self-protection instructions.

5b. Concerning Air Quality in the city of Athens, an online system is providing regularly information on the measurement values of a series of pollutants as well as exceedances against basic standards and potential announced measures.

Public Information

By fixed phone message (tel. Nr. 1448, three messages per day)

Through INTERNET (www.minenv.gr) (in greek and english) on daily basis:

Analytical description of air quality situation, max. and average pollutant values for the present day and the previous one,

Extended presentation of ozone exceedances

3-Monthly and yearly reports

In case of air pollution episode: Information on the evolution on hourly basis through INTERNET - Radio and TV messages – implementation of relevant measures (directions to people affected etc).

National Reports on the state of the water environment (Art. 5 and Annexes II & III of the WFD) as well as any information related to the implementation of water related EU legislation are or will be available for public information. A related web site is under development by the Central Water Agency, which will serve as an active information and discussion forum. It will include national reports and any other related documentation or information (data, maps, etc.). Furthermore, several workshops are or will be organised at regional or national level.

5c. On the above environmental areas Ministry for the Environment has established relevant databases with data from the respective monitoring systems and registers as well as information on relevant activities, plans, measures, institutional structure etc. Part of the above is being displayed on the Ministry's Web Site. The final objective is to include gradually all necessary data and information. Furthermore, concerning the monitoring of the implementation of the legislation, a positive step taken by YPEHODE has been the regular posting of all related information (on both transpositions and implementation enactments being issued) on the Ministry's website, thus, ensuring a wide public diffusion of information, data and knowledge as well as more participatory process.

-National Environmental Information Network: it is a national repository of environmental data and a mechanism for exchanging data between relevant environmental administrative services as well as for providing data to the public. (see more information under par.a ii)

- National Data Bank of Hydrological and Meteorological Information: it is a distributed data base and a wide area network for exchanging and disseminating Hydrological and Meteorological information produced by relevant organisations belonging to the network. A new project developed today under the E.C. Cohesion Funds will upgrade and update the database with more recent information and relevant analysis and assessments. The system also provides information to the INTERNET.
- Communication tools used to convey environmental information to a non expert audience and to high level decision makers (web-based tools, user-friendly brochures, aggregated indices, etc.)
 - Specific web site, in the framework of the implementation of alternative management of packaging and other waste (Law N. 2939/2001), linked directly with the internet home page of Hellenic Ministry for the Environment, which provides environmental information in respect to alternative management (recovery and recycling) of packaging waste, ELVs, used tires, waste oil, WEEE, batteries & accumulators and construction & demolition waste.
- A Web Site for establishing the Clearing House Mechanism for the Aarhus Convention, in the framework of the implementation of the National Environmental Information Network (planned).
- In the framework of supporting actions regarding WFD implementation, establishment and operation of a related web site, translation of the EC WFD guidance documents, preparation of “legislative texts” for the harmonization of the existing national legislative framework to the WFD and education of the personnel of the competent authorities, public information and awareness (ongoing).
- Participation to the EEA OZONE WEB site with data from Athens City.
- Presentation on the INTERNET, of various Reports submitted to E.C. following relevant legal obligations, as well as of relevant environmental legislation.(EC Directives transposed in the Greek legislation, ratified international environmental Conventions and multilateral agreements .
- Development of an electronic tool to facilitate the application of the European Waste Catalogue. The tool will be accessible on the Web site of the Ministry of Environment Physical Planning and Public Works (ongoing).
- Function of Clearing House Mechanism on Biodiversity, bringing together seekers and providers of environmental information and contributing to making environmental information and data flows available to the public.
- A related web site is under development by the Central Water Agency, which will serve as an active information and discussion forum,in the framework of supporting actions regarding WFD implementation. It will include *national reports and any other related documentation or information (data maps, etc.)*.

Overview of current and planned activities, initiatives and events

In the framework of implementation of EC Directive 2002/49

Planned Project on “Evaluation of Environmental Noise” which will produce Noise maps of Athens Municipality(implementation in 2008).

On going Project for Mapping of Noise in the Aeroport of Athens and relevant action plans.
Survey on packaging sector and packaging waste – Development of a database (completed on 2007).

Survey on electric and electronic equipment sector and waste of electric and electronic equipment – Report and database development (ongoing).

Survey on construction and demolition sector and Construction and Demolition waste produced in Greece – Report and database development (ongoing).

Inventory of the uncontrolled dump sites in Greece – Report and data base development (completed on 2005).

National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (legislation: JMD 8668/2007 (OJG 287/B/2-3-2007). (Completed on 2007).

National Health Care Waste Management Plan (ongoing)

National Plan for the management of biological sludge (Project at allocation procedure) (ongoing)

Guidance Document for the industrial waste management plan (completed on 2006).

Guidance Document for the internal control of the landfill sites and occupational safety (Circular under preparation) (completed on 2007).

Permanent inventory of control system on combustion from permanent sources and vehicles. Establishment of data base and production of relevant annual report.

Program for the re-evaluating of 69 important bird areas for their characterization as Special Protection Areas for Birds. Action plans for the protection of species of priority (ongoing).

Identification of compatible activities in compliance with the qualifying species of the special protected areas.

(d) Overview of current and planned activities, initiatives, dates and frequencies of reports:

The regular response to the European Commission Reporting Obligations is being continued on the basis of respective national laws.

Between these some specific issues are the following:

In the framework of the new Law 3199/9-12-2003 (OJG 280A/2003) on water protection and the sustainable management of the water resources, followed by the PD 51/8-3-2007, with which the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC) is transposed into the national legislation, some of the relevant activities concerning environmental information are:

Project on Supporting actions regarding WFD implementation, including, inter alia, the drafting of a national guidance describing specific actions in every RBD (ongoing).

Implementation of the WFD Articles 5 & 6 and Annexes II – IV. CWA, aiming to reporting to the EC through WISE system on the following topics: characterization of each RBD, analysis of anthropogenic pressures and impacts, determination of reference conditions, economic analysis of water uses, registration of protected areas (ongoing).

Project for the development of a new monitoring network for inland surface (rivers, lakes), transitional, coastal and ground waters, including the development of monitoring programs for biological quality parameters and assessment/classification of their ecological quality (ongoing).

An annual report on the quality of bathing waters.

Project for the update of the “National Databank of Hydrological and Meteorological Information”. This project aims at the organization and dissemination of the Hydrological Information in Greece. It’s a Distributed Relational Data Base working in a wide area network (ongoing).

Monitoring and protection of bathing waters and the marine environment (ongoing).

Athens Air pollution daily report available also on the INTERNET:

Annual Report on “Air Pollution in Athens-2006” available also on the INTERNET

Report on the Revision of the 2002 NSSD of Greece, encompassing the same priorities (7 challenges and 2 cross cutting issues) as the Renewed EU Strategy for S.D. (2006) plus four additional priorities of national interest, i.e. Culture, Tourism, Agriculture and Physical Planning.

According to conventional obligations of Greece, national reports are being submitted on a regular basis which includes environmental information. These are:

The Third National Report for the Convention of Biological Diversity, which is in its final stage of preparation.

The National Report for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (under preparation).

National Report for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (under preparation).

National Report on the Application of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention).
Regular response to the reporting of the E.C. Air Emissions and Climate Change Directives: 88/609 (2005), 2001/81 (2005,2006,2007), 96/61 (2006), 1999/13 (2006). Reporting to IPPC-CLRTAP Convention.

Reports on the implementation of various Directives of the European Commission relating to waste and the protection of the environment:
Directive 75/442/EEC on waste,
Directive 86/278/EEC on the protection of the environment, and in particular the soil, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture
Directive 91/689/EEC on hazardous waste
Directive 1999/31/EEC on the landfill of waste
Preparation of a National State of the Environment Report(ongoing) (MDGs),

-In the framework of the directive 96/61/EC concerning integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC), and the [European Pollutant Emission Register \(EPER\)](#), two reports were drafted and rendered in public (Reports EPER 1 and 2) in the years 2004 and 2006

. Ministry of Foreign Affairs through directorate YDAS-2 handles Greeces relations with the OECDs DAC,. It maintains the official statistical database on development assistance provided by Greece and sends detailed statistical data to the DAC, in fulfilment of our countrys obligation . YDAS-2 also draws up the Annual YDAS Report, which is submitted to the Hellenic Parliament, as well as other publications, such as Greeces Contribution towards Attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

(e) Measures taken to disseminate the information referred to in **paragraph 5**;

(See above under para a. b c d)

(f) With respect to **paragraph 6**, measures taken to encourage operators whose activities have a significant impact on the environment to inform the public regularly of the environmental impact of their activities and products;

Programmes, inter alia, for the funding of several organizations for EMAS registration and ISO14001 certification as well as for the awarding of the Eco-Label are being implemented under the 3rd CSF. Ministerial Decision 15624/1025/2004 , provides for Funding for SMEs, (Industrial enterprises.),as well as Ministerial Decision 24378/2233/2006,also provides for Funding for SMEs, and industrial and tourist enterprises.In addition there are no fees for Emas registration.Under Emas Scheme all Emas registered organisations submit regularly updated environmental statements including inter alia the environmental impact of their activities and products.

In recent years, the register of EMAS certified organisations is growing rapidly in Greece. The number of registered organisations has jumped from 1 in January 2001, to 10 in January 2004, and to 55 in December 2007. Registered organisations come from diverse business areas, as well as organisations ,universities and local authorities. Moreover, environmental services companies have been added to the registry and the Public Sector has started showing interest as well. The Annual European EMAS awards ceremony was organized in Athens in 2006, during which the European Commission granted to our country the award for Member State with the largest increase in registrations among old Member States. In the meantime, enterprises from all sectors (Manufacturing, Services, Trade, Tourism) have been receiving funding for the development of Environmental Management Scheme, (Emas), ISO 14001 certification and Eco-label. An increasing interest from businesses has been noticed as 180 enterprises have been included in the latest round of the pertinent call of the Operational Programme “Competitiveness” of the 3rd CSF. Law 3325/2005 encourages companies from the Attica region whose operation carries significant environmental effects to establish and achieve EMAS or ISO14001 certification by 2010.

The Ministry of ? has announced the following financing Programmes supporting enterprises in the Framework of the Project Competitiveness and Enterprises (ESPA 2007-2013):


1. The Programme Green Enterprise 2009. This programme focuses on the inclusion of environmental dimension and policy by Micro and SMEs (enterprises), in order to improve competitiveness with emphasis on innovation .The budget of public expenditure is 30.000.000,00 Euros.The public expenditure is co-financed by European Communities contribution through the sources of European Fund of Regional Development (85%)and also by National Contribution.(15%). Among the criteria of assessment is registration in Emas, certification of the products with Ecolabel , or implementation of ISO 14001 by the enterprises .The eligible activities of the project is the development of green products and services ,Eco-design,Eco Innovation, reduce of energy, Implementation of Emas ,implementation of ISO 14001,certification of the products with Ecolabel, the

improvement of the environmental and social profile of the manufacturing or other enterprises etc.

2. The Programme Green Infrastructure 2009 .This programme focuses on the management of waste by the enterprises in order to guide Micro and SMEs to the implementation of sustainable management of waste. The budget of public expenditure is 30.000.000,00 Euros. The public expenditure is co-financed by European Communities contribution through the sources of European Fund of Regional Development (85%) and also by National Contribution.(15%). Among the criteria of assessment is implementation of Emas or implementation of ISO 14001, certification of the products with Eco label, by the enterprises.

-No fees for Emas registration.

Business Competitiveness and Entrepreneurship Program (CEOP II - Priority 4)



The Operational Programme for Competitiveness and Entrepreneurship is to improve the competitiveness and internationalization of business and manufacturing, with emphasis on the dimension of innovativeness. A key component of the Program is to protect the environment and sustainable development. The goal of the program is achieved by supporting actions to accelerate the transition to a knowledge economy, develop healthy, sustainable and outward-oriented entrepreneurship and enhancing the attractiveness of Greece as a place to develop business with respect to the environment.

For the period 2007 - 2013 designated four development priorities, of which 4th concerning the activities of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change.

The priorities are:

1. The promotion of innovation, supported by research and technological development
2. Strengthening entrepreneurship and extroversion
3. Improving the business environment
4. The completion of the country's energy system and to enhance sustainability



The priority for securing energy supplies in the country in achieving environmental goals, supporting the liberalization of energy market and the country's accession to major international networks of electricity transmission and natural gas.

Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 of Greece "Alexander Baltatzis (Lines 2 and 3)

The National Strategic Plan for Rural Development (ESSAA) 2007-2013 sets out the priorities of Greece for the period 2007-2013 in accordance with Article 11 of Regulation (EC) 1698/2005 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), which stipulates that the national rural development strategy will be implemented through the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2007-2013.

Rural development policy in Greece 2007-2013 focuses on three main areas:

Improving the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry

Improving the environment and countryside

Improving quality of life in rural areas and diversification of rural economy

assisted by fourth horizontal axis LEADER, based on experience gained from the Community Initiatives Leader of previous programming periods.

For the period 2007 - 2013, the lines pertaining to the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change is the Pillar 2 and Pillar 3.

5 (g)

Selected data from databases of the above mentioned environmental fields(Air Quality, Air emissions, Water Quality and Quantity, Industry, Emissions from Stationary combustion sources installations and Vehicles, Fuel, Waste, Noise) is published on the Web Site of the Ministry, in the section of the National Environmental Information Network.(see more information under 5 (a) (i))

5(h) Cartagena Protocol which was ratified through Law 3233/2004(OJG A 51/18-2-2004) provides for a Biosafety Clearing House Mechanism . Moreover, actions being taken for the development of a **certification of products** from sustainable forestry ,constitute a major challenge.(For eco-labeling of products see under5(c))

5 (i) - **Registry of emissions' trading allowances (*Greenhouse Gas Emission Allowances*)**

National Center for Environment and Sustainable Development (NCESD) was assigned as responsible for the operation of the Registry according to Joint Ministerial Decision (JMD)54409/2632/27-12-2004 (OJG 1931 B 2004)which transposed into the Greek legislation Directive 2003/87/EC as amended by Directive 2004/101/EC

The institutional framework for the management and updating of the electronic Registry of emissions' trading allowances has been concluded with the setting up of the *Bureau for GHG Emissions Trading* within the Ministry and the assignment of the Registry's management to the above mentioned *National Centre for the Environment and Sustainable Development (NCESD)*. Greek Registry has started to operate since 27/4/2006. All EU Directives pertinent to the Registry have been transposed into the Greek Law

-European Pollutant Emission Register (EPER).

- In the framework of Directive 96/61/EC concerning integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC), and the [European Pollutant Emission Register \(EPER\)](#), two reports were drafted and rendered in public (Reports EPER 1 and 2) in the years 2004 and 2006 with statistical and inventory data from the implementation of the Directive. Most important industries in Greece monitor continuously the main pollutant emissions aiming at enhancing the relevant inventories of the country. European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR) that replaced EPER from 2007 reporting period onwards. (EC Regulation 166/2006) has not been ratified yet.

Describe any **obstacles encountered** in the implementation of any of the paragraphs of article 5.

Answer:

Possible problems may occur by :

- Delayed flow of information to the Central Administration
- Delay in rendering in public of Reports and data

Provide further information on the practical application of the provisions on the collection and dissemination of environmental information in article 5, e.g. are there any statistics available on the information published?

Answer:

Establishment in the framework of Environmental Accounts –Statistics and Sustainable Development Index, of a particular estimation system according to the proposed methodology of EUROSTAT (General Secretariat of National Statistical Service,).

Establishment in cooperation with Eurostat of the accounts NAMEA for Air Emissions and Energy. (General Secretariat of National Statistical Service, Annual data for five years,).

Implementation of a Project for producing Estimations on forest accounts, according to the EUROSTAT methodology, in the framework of Environmental Accounts program (General Secretariat of National Statistical Service Annual data for five years).

Give relevant web site addresses, if available:

- Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works.

www.minenv.gr/emas Hellenic site for Emas MoE(YPEHODE)

www.edpp.gr – National Environmental Information Network

www.ekpaa.gr – National Centre for the Environment and Sustainable Development

www.mfa.gr –Ministry of Foreign Affairs

www.noa.gr – National Observatory of Athens

www.okxe.gr - Hellenic Mapping and Cadastral Organization

www.minenv.gr/medeuwi - EU Water Initiative / Mediterranean Component

www.minenv.gr/3/31/313/31303/g3130304.html - Organization for Planning and Environmental Protection of Athens

www.minenv.gr/3/31/314/g314.html - Organization for Planning and Environmental Protection of Thessaloniki.

<http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu>

<http://www.ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel>

Article 6

List legislative, regulatory and other measures that implement the provisions on public participation in decisions on specific activities in article 6. legislative, regulatory and other measures that implement the provisions on public

participation in decisions on specific activities in article 6.

Explain how each paragraph of article 6 has been implemented. Describe the transposition of the

relevant definitions in article 2 and the non-discrimination requirement in article 3, paragraph 9.

Also, and in particular, describe:

(a) With respect to **paragraph 1**, measures taken to ensure that:

(i) The provisions of article 6 are applied with respect to decisions on whether to permit proposed activities listed in annex I to the Convention;

(ii) The provisions of article 6 are applied to decisions on proposed activities

not listed in annex I which may have a significant effect on the environment;

(b) Measures taken to ensure that the public concerned is informed, early in an

environmental decision-making procedure, and in an adequate, timely and effective manner, of

the matters referred to in **paragraph 2**;

(c) Measures taken to ensure that the time frames of the public participation

procedures respect the requirements of **paragraph 3**;

(d) With respect to **paragraph 4**, measures taken to ensure that there is early public

participation;

(e) With respect to **paragraph 5**, measures taken to encourage prospective applicants

to identify the public concerned, to enter into discussions, and to provide information regarding

the objectives of their application before applying for a permit;

(f) With respect to **paragraph 6**, measures taken to ensure that:

(i) The competent public authorities give the public concerned all information

relevant to the decision-making referred to in article 6 that is available at

the time of the public participation procedure;

(ii) In particular, the competent authorities give to the public concerned the

information listed in this paragraph;

(g) With respect to **paragraph 7**, measures taken to ensure that procedures for public

participation allow the public to submit comments, information, analyses or opinions that it

considers relevant to the proposed activity;

(h) With respect to **paragraph 8**, measures taken to ensure that in a decision due

account is taken of the outcome of the public participation;

(i) With respect to **paragraph 9**, measures taken to ensure that the public is promptly

informed of a decision in accordance with the appropriate procedures;

(j) With respect to **paragraph 10**, measures taken to ensure that when a public

authority reconsiders or updates the operating conditions for an activity referred to in

paragraph 1, the provisions of paragraphs 2 to 9 are applied making the necessary changes, and

where appropriate;

(k) With respect to **paragraph 11**, measures taken to apply the provisions of article 6

to decisions on whether to permit the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms into

the environment.

Answer:

Concerning relevant definitions in article 2 and the non discrimination requirement in article 3 ,see information under article 5. In Greece, the general public and the NGOs can submit comments and proposals on environmental issues at the preliminary stages of the decision making process .

All requirements of Article 6 are met in Law 3422/2005 which ratified the Aarhus Convention.

Law 3010/2002 transposing into national legislation EU Directives 96/61/EC, where appropriate, as well as 97/11/EC and amending Law 1650/1986 for the protection of the environment in conjunction with 3 relevant Joint Ministerial Decisions (JMDs) have upgraded since 2003 our national Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure for projects and activities. These JMDs, which specify the groups of projects or activities that are subject to an EIA, the environmental permitting procedure, and the contents and publication process for the Environmental Impact Study (EIS), are the following:

-JMD 15393/2332/2002(OJG 332B/2002) on the classification of public and private projects and activities into groups

-**JMD 11014/703/2003**(OJG 332B/2003) on the procedures of preliminary environmental impact assessment and approval of environmental terms

-**JMD 37111/2021/2003**(OJG 1391B/29-9-2003), on the procedure for informing the public and public participation within the framework of the environmental permitting system .

EU Directive 2003/35 on “providing for public participation regarding the drawing up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment and amending with regard to public participation and access to justice Council Directives 85/337/EEC and 96/61/EC” was effectively transposed into the Greek legislation through the enactment of two Joint Ministerial Decisions (JMD):The above mentioned **JMD 37111/2021/2003**(OJG 1391B/29-9-2003). And the **JMD 9269/470/2007**(OJG 286B/2-3-2007) that defines measures of judicial protection of the public against acts or omissions of the Public Administration regarding access to information and public participation during environmental impact assessment process and in particular during the procedure for approval of environmental terms.

The above JMD also meet all requirements of Article 6 of the Convention.

In general, the EIA procedure is carried out on a central, regional and local authority level for large, medium and small scale projects respectively. EIA is a two-stage process that involves the following steps:

-screening and scoping (carried out as a preliminary EIA procedure, at the end of which the public is informed of outcome) **(a)**

-submission of application (including the EIS) to the competent environmental authority

-quality review of the submitted documentation

-consultation with other relevant authorities & public participation **(b)** (these take place concurrently and include transboundary consultations when necessary)

-opinions sent to competent authority within specified time period **(c)**

-EIA decision issued (“decision for approval of environmental terms”)

-publication of decision-public is informed **(d)**

Moreover :

-Public participation indicated as “b” takes place early enough when all options are still open, although public administration has already expressed its preliminary opinion during the preliminary EIA opinion.

-Public concerned is provided enough time to express its opinion.

-Environmental impact assessment studies are announced publicly to the competent Prefectural Councils. The official opinions on the Preliminary Environmental Assessment and Evaluation and on the Decisions of environmental terms approval are also notified to the above Competent Prefectural Councils. The Preliminary Environmental Estimation and Evaluation (PEEE) is a first opinion of the Administration and it is not binding. In addition the text of PEEE is publicized (for public information only) by the Competent Prefectural Council. A similar public announcement is also provided to the Authorities of a neighbour EU Member State (transboundary consultation) when there are possible environmental impacts of the assessed activities. Environmental NGOs, local representatives and local competent bodies as well as every person can submit comments either to the Prefectural Council or to the competent Public Authority respectively.

-During the EIA/SEA procedures (environmental permitting of projects/plans and programs) appropriate environmental information concerning each case is submitted to the Competent Administration Service.

- All official legislative documentation concerning EIA/SEA procedures is provided upon request. Upon an application, Administration provides in due time the information requested concerning official documents or other documentation concerning the EIA/SEA files submitted to it, as soon as the public participation process has begun. No internal consultation document concerning open judicial procedures is provided.

-Within the framework of national legislation, public authorities and specifically the Prefectures have the responsibility to publish or otherwise make publicly available specific information of the “Environmental Impact Survey” of any industry and any plan of organizing Industrial Area and Industrial Parks, **while options are still open and during the preparation of the regulations and acceptance.** Opportunity to comment is given to public at the latest within 30 days, directly, or through representative consultative bodies.

-Request for permitting of electric energy production to the Competent Authority of Energy (Ministry of Development), is rendered in public by the applicant according to procedure provided by the relevant Regulation and law 2773/1999. A feasibility study and a Preliminary Environmental Assessment is prerequisite. Any interested person can access to information concerning the relevant request, held by the above Authority and submit reasoned objections. An environmental impact assessment decision (JMD), issued by the Ministry of Environment is also required.

(k) Public participation with regard to decisions permitting the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) into the environment under the Article 6 par 11 of the Convention is provided by Law 3422/05 which ratified the Aarhus Convention.

In addition the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment ,including their placing on the market within the Community is provided by Directive 2001/18/EC. Article 12 of the JMD 38639/2017/2005(OJG B 1334)which transposed the above directive provides for public participation regarding decisions permitting the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment (for experimental use) .Article 15 of the above JMD provides for public participation regarding their placing on the market (for commercial use).

As regards GMOs, Nature Management Section of the Ministry for the Environment is dealing with all non commercial (i.e. experimental) issues of the subject.No notification files have been submitted until today regarding GMOs under Directive 2001/18/EC.

In addition JMD 11642/1943/2002 which transposed Directive 98/81 regarding contained use of Genetically modified microorganisms (GMMs),also provides in Article 12 for public participation. Labeling and traceability of GMOs are also provided by EU Regulation 1830/2003.

Describe any **obstacles encountered** in the implementation of any of the paragraphs of article 6.

Answer:

Possible delays during the procedure of rendering in public the environmental impact assesment studies

Provide further information on the practical application of the provisions on public

participation in decisions on specific activities in article 6, **e.g. are there any statistics or other information available on public participation in decisions on specific activities or on**

decisions not to apply the provisions of this article to proposed activities serving national

defence purposes.

Answer : No statistical data available

Give relevant web site addresses, if available:

Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works

www.biodiv-chm.gr Site of Clearing House Mechanism of Biodiversity in Greece

www.ekpaa.gr National Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development

www.edpp.gr National Environmental Information Network

www.epper.gr Operational Program for the Environment

Eionet/ CDR: <http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu>

OHE: <http://www.unece.org>

Article 7

List the appropriate practical and/or other provisions made for the public to participate during the preparation of plans and programmes relating to the environment.

Describe the transposition of the relevant definitions in article 2 and the non-discrimination requirement in article 3, paragraph 9.

-Joint Ministerial Decision (JMD) 107017/2006 has introduced the necessary provisions for the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programs on the environment, or else Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). A number of plans and programs, on a national, regional or local level, to be adopted through a formal procedure, in several sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, tourism, water resources management, waste management, urban or physical planning or land use, that are likely to have significant environmental effects, are made subject to a SEA.

- In particular, a consultation process was followed on the respective SEA studies for the three Special Frameworks of Spatial Planning on: Renewable Energy Sources, Industry and Tourism.

-In general, the SEA procedure takes place on a central level for national, inter-regional and regional plans and programs and on a regional level for local (prefectural and inter-prefectural) plans and programs, and entails the following steps:

-optional scoping

- screening (public is informed of outcome) (a)
 - submission of application (including the Strategic Environmental Impact Study: S-EIS) to the competent environmental authority
 - quality review of the submitted documentation
 - consultation with other relevant authorities & public participation (b) (these take place concurrently and include transboundary consultations when necessary)
 - opinions sent to competent authority within specified time period (c)
 - SEA decision issued, which includes monitoring measures
 - Publication of decision-public is informed (d)
- Thereafter, the proposed plan or program must be adapted in order to comply with the SEA decision. The Special Environmental Service is the central competent authority for the environmental permitting of plans and programs.

In conducting the studies promoted by the Special Projects Update Directorate of YPEKA (such as :a.redevelopment projects in public space, focusing on deprived areas b. programs to promote environmentally friendly forms of movement(travel) in the strategy for sustainable urban mobility, c. studies in central squares of depressed areas of Athens and d. the study of basic cycling axis linking Kifissia with Faliro, sought in every way public participation, although not required by national legislation, to the acceptance of interventions aimed between others in improving the urban environment and quality of life.

According to the EU Water Framework Directive requirements, Member States must encourage the active involvement of all interested parties, in particular in the production, review and updating of the River Basin **Management Plans** to be developed by the end of 2009. Member States are obliged to publish the River Basin Management Plans for comments by any interested party. The publication procedure of the River Basin Management Plans to be developed for each RBD of the country is described in Art. 15 of the Presidential Decree 51/2007, which transposes mainly the technical requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive into national legislation. According to this legislative framework, the Regional Water Councils are responsible to inform the public and make available the draft copies of the River Basin Management Plans for comments. Comments in writing to the draft copies by the public can be submitted within 6 months (at the latest) from the publication date.

On request, access can be given to background documents and information used for the development of **the draft river basin management plans** According to the

new legislation for the protection and sustainable management of water resources in Greece (Law 3199/2003 - Art. 3, par 6 & Art.6), which integrates the public participation requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the active involvement of interested parties is ensured through their representation to the National and Regional (in the 13 Regional Water Districts) Water Councils that are being developed as part of the new administrative framework of the country. **The National and the 13 Regional Water Councils are advisory boards in which all national and regional interested groups, such as involved organisations, NGOs, etc., are represented.**

All calls for tenders, in order to be financed by the Special Service for Management of the Operational Programme “Environment and Sustainable Development”, (EPPER), are publicized in large and high circulation’s newspapers as well as they are displayed in the official website of the above Special Service (EPPER) of the Ministry for the Environment.

- The implementation of the Operational Programmes under the competence of this Special Service (EPPER) is monitored regularly by an established Monitoring Committee which operates under approved Rules of procedure. Representatives of Competent bodies, as well as representatives of social partners (stakeholders) and of NGOs participate in this Monitoring Committee.
- Two public consultations were held on Plans of the Operational Programme drawn by the above Special Service concerning the preparation and the drawing of the Operational Programme Environment and Sustainable Development (EPPERAA) 2007-2013. The first public consultation took place during the time period from 31-10-2006 until 30-3-2007. And the second public consultation took place during the time period from 2/4/2007 until 20/7/2007. During these two periods the draft of the Operational Programme were early displayed for public consultation for a long time in the official website of the Ministry for Environment as well as they were sent to 150 representatives Competent Bodies asking for any kind of contribution eg. comments, suggestions, or remarks. Many written as well as oral -by phone- suggestions were submitted and were taken into consideration in the final draft of the Operational Programme which was sent to European Commission for the final approval.
- The Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment of the Operational Programme Environment and Sustainable Development (EPPERAA) drawn under the responsibility and guidance of the above Special Service (EPPERAA) was also opened to public consultation and Press communication according to JMD107017 / 5-9-2006 which has introduced the necessary provisions for the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, or else Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), transposing Directive 2001/42/EK (ΦΕΚ 1225 Β)

The National Council for Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development (NCSPSD), established according to Law 2742/1999, had given its opinion in 2002 on a draft Special Framework of Spatial Planning of Coastal Areas prepared by the Ministry of the Environment and Physical Planning, but the process was not concluded. More recently, the NCSPSD gave also its opinion on two National Frameworks of Spatial Planning, one General and one Special (= Thematic) on Renewable

Energy Sources. Two more National Special Frameworks of Spatial Planning are to be submitted to the NCSPSD for consultation in the next weeks: one on Industry and one on Tourism. When this process will be concluded, in the next months, two more National Special Frameworks of Spatial Planning, which are currently close to be finalised by the Ministry of the Environment and Physical Planning, will be submitted to the NCSPSD: one on Coastal and Insular Areas and another on Mountainous Areas.

According to Law 2508/97 the involved Public Authorities and relevant local stakeholders are asked to provide their official opinion for the approval of the General Master City Plan. Concerning the Urban Studies and City Plans a publication on the newspapers is required and a consultation takes place in the Local Authority. Interested public can submit relevant rejections. In the case of a radical renewal project in an Urban Area a consensus of 60% of the owners of the land is required for the project to be approved.

The local authorities are mainly involved in urban planning and they have general advisory competence, according to which the central authorities ask for their previous consultation every time they plan to adopt a regulatory measure that will affect the environment or local planning.

Explain what opportunities there are for public participation in the preparation of policies

relating to the environment.

The adoption of policies relating to the environment rather takes the form of strategies or programmes or legislative acts. In this framework the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, drawn up by the National Centre for the Environment and Sustainable Development and approved by the Ministerial Council in June 2002, was prepared through collaboration with the “National Coordination Committee of the Government Policy in the field of Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development” that was at the time also acting as the National Preparatory Committee of Greece in view of the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, encompassing representatives from competent Ministries and the NCESD. Representatives from **Local Authorities, employers and trade unions, research institutes and NGOs also participated in the preparation procedure, directly through thematic working groups or through participation in wider Workshops.** In the “*National Council for Physical Planning and Sustainable Development*” also participated representatives from MoE(YPEHODE), Local Authorities, employer and trade unions, research institutes and NGOs. Currently we are in a *Review of the 2002 Strategy* process, which is to be finalized shortly. Almost all Ministries and

Society groups are involved in this Review process since its very initial preparatory stages. Prior to the drafting of the Revised Strategy's first draft, an open invitation was uploaded on the MoEn. website to all groups and entities to be involved in a Dialogue process, in the context of a public consultation.

-Participation of National Center of Environment and Sustainable Development through its official opinion as well as of other local stakeholders and civil partners in the consultation for the following programmes and plans: -Elaboration of National plan of Strategic Agricultural development for the period (2007-2013)on environment issues such as water resources management, biodiversity, protected areas, climate change etc .-Elaboration and implementation of policy regarding the management of water resources in a water basin based on Agenda 21 Principles and on Framework Directive guidance 2000/60/EE.(Life 04 /Env.Gr/000099 Water Agenda)
- Management of Water Resources and Wetland protection in tourism developing areas programme.(MANWATER INTEREG III,STRAND B,ARCHIMED).
-Elaboration of the National Development Plan (National Strategic) Framework
-Elaboration of the European Rural Policy (2007-2013).

Describe any **obstacles encountered** in the implementation of article 7.

Answer:

Participatory processes can take a lot of time and money, effecting the timely implementation of the Water Framework Directive (possible delays, potential changes in the plans).

Lack of public ability and willingness to participate.

Provide further information on the practical application of the provisions on public participation in decisions on specific activities in article 7.

Answer:

Give relevant web site addresses, if available:

<http://www.unfccc.int>

<http://www.ekpaa.gr>

<http://www.ypan.gr>

<http://www.unece.org>

Article 8

Describe what efforts are made to promote effective public participation during the preparation by public authorities of executive regulations and other generally applicable

legally binding rules that may have a significant effect on the environment. To the extent

appropriate, describe the transposition of the relevant definitions in article 2 and the nondiscrimination

requirement in article 3, paragraph 9.

Answer:

Consultation is usually provided by law either as a consultation with national representative bodies or as a general public consultation and not as a general institutionalised procedure for public participation in preparing national legislation or executive regulations. In the Greek Parliament, a Permanent Committee on the Protection of the Environment established in 2005 contributes in the consideration and debating of environmental issues.

Some indicative cases of public participation under article 8, apart from the cases stated above under Article 6 and 7, are the following:

-According to Law 1650/86 for the protection of the environment, for the designation of protected areas, a Specific Environmental Study (SES) is prerequisite. **After its completion, the SES is approved and then, together with the draft legislation text for the designation of the area, it is available in public. Comments are incorporated and then the legislative text is signed by the competent Ministers.**

-According to L. 1650/86 and L. 2742/99, twenty seven Management Bodies have been established in protected areas of Greece covering app. 1.700.000 ha. Administrative Councils of these bodies are composed by representatives of central, regional and local authorities, representatives of local stakeholders groups, researchers and NGOs. **Management Bodies are entitled to draft regulations for administration and functioning for their areas.**

Describe any **obstacles encountered** in the implementation of article 8.

Answer:

Provide further information on the practical application of the provisions on public

participation in the field covered by article 8.

Answer:

Give relevant web site addresses, if available:

Article 9

List legislative, regulatory and other measures that implement the provisions on access to justice in article 9.

Explain how each paragraph of article 9 has been implemented. Describe the transposition of the

relevant definitions in article 2 and the non-discrimination requirement in article 3, paragraph 9.

Also, and in particular, describe:

(a) With respect to **paragraph 1**, measures taken to ensure that:

(i) Any person who considers that his or her request for information under article 4 has not been dealt with in accordance with the provisions of that article has access to a review procedure before a court of law or another independent and impartial body established by law;

(ii) Where there is provision for such a review by a court of law, such a person also has access to an expeditious procedure established by law that is free of charge or inexpensive for reconsideration by a public authority or review by an independent and impartial body other than a court of law;

(iii) Final decisions under this paragraph are binding on the public authority

holding the information, and that reasons are stated in writing, at least

where access to information is refused;

(b) Measures taken to ensure that within the framework of national legislation,

members of the public concerned meeting the criteria set out in **paragraph 2** have access to a review procedure before a court of law and/or another independent and impartial body established by law, to challenge the substantive and procedural legality of any decision, act or omission subject to the provisions of article 6;

(c) With respect to **paragraph 3**, measures taken to ensure that where they meet the

criteria, if any, laid down in national law, members of the public have access to administrative or judicial procedures to challenge acts and omissions by private persons and public authorities which contravene provisions of national law relating to the environment;

(d) With respect to **paragraph 4**, measures taken to ensure that:

(i) The procedures referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 provide adequate and

effective remedies;

(ii) Such procedures otherwise meet the requirements of this paragraph;

(e) With respect to **paragraph 5**, measures taken to ensure that information is

provided to the public on access to administrative and judicial review.

Answer:

According to Article 24 of the Hellenic Constitution the protection of the natural and cultural environment constitutes a duty of the State and a right of everyone. The State is bound to adopt special preventive and repressive measures for the preservation of the environment in the concept of sustainable development. The Greek legal system fulfils the rights and obligations proclaimed by the Convention, as it adequately secures judicial protection in environmental cases, irrespective of whether the dispute arisen derives from private entity activities or from acts or omissions of the public authorities and whether the claims for

judicial protection involve the prevention of environmental damage or the payment of damages.

Law 1650/86 on the protection of the Environment as amended by law 3010/2002 and implemented by several Presidential decrees and JMD is the basic environmental protection law in Greece. A great number of EU Directives on the environment have been transposed in the Greek legislation and several laws on environmental issues e.g. on the protection of the marine environment, on the protection of forests etc also provide for environmental protection .

Besides ,concerning access to information, according to the **Hellenic Constitution the competent service or authority is obliged to reply to requests for information and for issuing documents**, within a set deadline not exceeding 60 days, as specified by law. In case this deadline elapses without action or in case of unlawful refusal, in addition to any other sanctions and consequences at law, **special compensation is also paid to the applicant**, as specified by law. (article 10, para.3 of the Hellenic Constitution).(see more information on the right of access to information under article 3).

Aiming at citizens' protection there are also several possibilities for administrative and judicial review ,such as the application for remedy,special recourses , quasi -judicial recourses,hierarchical recourse and hierarchical control exercised by superior authorities over subordinate authorities,actions for compensation according to civil liability provisions as well as several judicial recourses.

The enactment of the JMD11764/653/2006 on access to environmental information) has also contributed in facilitating public seeking access to justice in environmental matters. According to Article 6 of the above Joint Ministerial Decision(JMD), the citizen has the following possibilities for administration and judicial review:

File an action for compensation before the Special Committee provided by Law 1943/1991(Article 5,par 13)

File an action for compensation before the Competent Court according to the civil liability provisions.

File a Quasi-judicial recourse before the Special Committee provided by Law 1943/1991(Article 5 par.13)for the modification or reconsideration of the acts or omissions of the Public Authority. The interested physical or legal person has the right to file an administrative recourse before the Administrative Court ,against the decision of the above Special Committee.

The JMD 11764/653/2006 which transposed 2003/4 directive repealed the JMD 77921/1440/6-9-95on access to environmental information. By the repealed JMD a Committee on Access to Environmental Information had been established , competent for the administrative review of the applicant's request rejection by the Public Authority. Today according to the new JMD 11764/653/2006 this Committee

has been replaced by a Special Committee established by Law 1943/1991(Article 13 par 5)as it was amended, which is competent today for the above administrative review of the applicant's request rejection

Additionally the enactment of the JMD 9269/470/2007(OG 286B/2-3-2007) that defines measures of judicial protection of the public against acts or omissions of the Public Administration regarding access to information and public participation during environmental impact assessment , has also contributed essentially in facilitating access to justice in environmental matters. According to Article 3 of the above Joint Ministerial Decision(JMD), the citizen has the following possibilities for administrative and judicial review:

1.For administrative review:

a. Application for remedy submitted before Ministry for the Environment according to law 2690/1999 (article 24)by which the applicant asks for the annulment or modification of the initial administrative decision/act concerning public

information and participation during environmental impact assessment of the relevant activities.

b. Special recourses that are submitted before the Minister for the Environment ,by which the applicant asks for the annulment or modification of the General Secretary of the Region Initial Act concerning public information and participation during environmental impact assessment of the relevant activities.

2. For judicial review

a. File an action for compensation before the Competent Court according to civil liability provisions.

b. Petition(writ)of annulment before the Council of State 1.against acts or omissions of the Public Administration whether an application for remedy has been submitted or not.2.Against the administrative decisions/acts or against omissions of the Ministry for the Environment taken after the submission of the special administrative recourse or against its omission (silent rejection)

Additionally an important legal mechanism in many environmental cases constitutes the interim injunctive relief when an administrative decision with environmental consequences cannot be revoked.If the interim injunctive relief is admitted ,a stay of

execution is ordered if the danger is deemed probable unless there are specific grounds of public interest.

- Regarding enforcement, the Special Service of Environmental Inspectors (SSEI) has been established under Presidential Decree 165 on the "administrative organization of SSEI" (OJG A137/ in June 2003, covering with its 2 Divisions for Northern and Southern Greece the whole country, thus, contributing to the effective enforcement of environmental legislation and increasing the overall credibility of environmental policy in the country. Hellenic Environmental Inspectorate is responsible for environmental infringements concerning breach of environmental law, monitoring and compliance with environmental legislation

-Additionally the Hellenic Ombudsman has jurisdiction over cases concerning disputes between citizens and public administration units, such as: Government services, Local and regional government (communities, municipalities, prefectures), other Public institutions and Private law entities of the public sector, corporations and organizations that are under control either by the state or by legal entities of the public sector. The Ombudsman can intervene when, in dealing with the public administration, an individual or legal entity encounters: Refusal to supply information or insufficient provision of information. Unreasonable delay in processing applications. Infringement of laws or violation of procedure. Administrative irregularities or omissions Discrimination against individuals.

Hellenic Constitution art 4.(1975) provides for the principle of equality.(see more under article 5) Besides Law 3304/2005 on the "Implementing of the principle of equal treatment regardless of racial or ethnic origin, religious or other beliefs, disability, age or sexual orientation" through which the relevant EU Directives were transposed, constitutes a landmark in the promotion of the principle of equality and the protection of human rights in Greece. This law reinforces the role of the Ombudsman by adding new competencies that are expected to help it fulfil its institutional objective more effectively and promote the principle of equal treatment. In addition The Equal Treatment Committee (ETC) of the Ministry of Justice, is assigned with combating discrimination in the private sector together with the Labour Inspectorate (SEPE).

The independence of the judges is safeguarded by the Constitution. (Article 26)The Greek legal system allows direct access to the civil courts both to individuals and NGOs. In environmental cases the scope of legal standing has been remarkably expanded as a result of the jurisprudence of the Council of State.

In addition there is no express prohibition against citizens from other States participating in Court proceedings. NGOs in general can participate if they fulfil some requirements. The most important is that NGOs should have as their aim, provided by

their statutes, the protection of the Environment. It could be said that in Greek law a quasi-actio popularis has been introduced by the jurisprudence of the Council of State since the actio- popularis itself is not accepted.

Concerning costs in the judicial procedure the applicant for the annulment of an administrative act before a Court must pay the standard stamp fees (normally not exceeding an amount of 10-30 Euros depending on the degree(instance) of the Court and a special trial deposit fee set at the amount of 10-20Euros for general annulment disputes, depending also on the degree(instance) of the Court. As for the legal counselling, the lowest mandatory costs are provided by law but generally in practice they are formulated and depend on the expertise of the appointed advocate and on Court degree(instance). Concerning costs for administrative procedure (special administrative recourse, and quasi-judicial recourse), there is no special cost.

Finally, concerning training curricula for judges, the school of National Judges established by law 2236/1994 provides educational seminars for judges on several issues while also providing special training for candidate judges. The judges can also take a leave of absence for a certain period of time to follow relevant University studies in Greece or abroad. Special seminars on the environment and environmental law are also provided by the Athens Bar Association, Specialized Institutions, the Technical Chamber of Greece etc. The Fifth Section of the Council of State is responsible for environmental administrative disputes. In this framework, a Member of the Hellenic Council of State participates in the Forum of International Environmental Judges.

Describe any **obstacles encountered** in the implementation of any of the paragraphs of article 9.

Answer: According to the opinion of an NGO there is relative scarcity of resources for access to justice.

Provide further information on the practical application of the provisions on access to justice pursuant to article 9, **e.g. are there any statistics available on environmental justice and are there any assistance mechanisms to remove or reduce financial and other barriers to access to justice?**

Answer: The president of the Court may at the applicant's request, exempt poor litigants from the duty to pay stamp fees and the deposit for the submission of an application if it is deemed that the applicant is in poor financial condition.

Besides law 3226/2004 (OJG A24/2004) provides for legal aid for poor litigants concerning cases of civil, commercial and criminal law

Give relevant web site addresses, if available:

www.Ministryofjustice.gr, Ministry of Justice

www.ste.gr Council of State

www.dsa.gr Athens Bar Association

www.synigoros.gr Hellenic Ombudsman

Hellenic Environmental Inspectorate

General comments on the Convention's objective:

If appropriate, indicate how the implementation of the Convention contributes to the protection of the right of every person of present and future generations to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being.

Answer:

Aarhus Convention's implementation constitutes an important step forward in the efforts of the International Community to ensure a sustainable environment for future generations. Greece believes that the existence of timeframes, practical implementation measures and the possibility for governments to work together with civil society provide the foundations for effective environmental protection.

**XXXIII. LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND OTHER MEASURES
IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED
ORGANISMS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 6bis AND ANNEX I bis**

Concerning legislative, regulatory and other measures that implement the provisions on public participation in decisions on the deliberate release into the environment and placing on the market of genetically modified organisms in article 6 bis, describe:

(a) With respect to **paragraph 1** of article 6 bis and:

(i) **Paragraph 1** of annex I bis, arrangements in the Party's regulatory framework to ensure effective information and public participation for decisions subject to the provisions of article 6 bis;

(ii) **Paragraph 2** of annex I bis, any exceptions provided for in the Party's regulatory framework to the public participation procedure laid down in annex I bis and the criteria for any such exception;

(iii) **Paragraph 3** of annex I bis, measures taken to make available to the public in an adequate, timely and effective manner a summary of the notification introduced to obtain an authorization for the deliberate release or placing on the market, as well as the assessment report where available;

(iv) **Paragraph 4** of annex I bis, measures taken to ensure that in no case the information listed in that paragraph is considered as confidential;

(v) **Paragraph 5** of annex I bis, measures taken to ensure the transparency of decision-making procedures and to provide access to the relevant procedural information to the public including, for example:

- a. The nature of possible decisions;
- b. The public authority responsible for making the decision;
- c. Public participation arrangements laid down pursuant to paragraph 1 of annex I bis;
- d. An indication of the public authority from which relevant information can be obtained;
- e. An indication of the public authority to which comments can be submitted and of the time schedule for the transmittal of comments;

(vi) **Paragraph 6** of annex I bis, measures taken to ensure that the arrangements introduced to implement paragraph 1 of annex I bis allow the public to submit, in any appropriate manner, any comments, information, analyses or opinions that it considers relevant to the proposed deliberate release or placing on the market;

(vii) **Paragraph 7** of annex I bis, measures taken to ensure that due account is taken of the outcome of public participation procedures organized pursuant to paragraph 1 of annex I bis;

(viii) **Paragraph 8** of annex I bis, measures taken to ensure that the texts of decisions subject to the provisions on annex I bis taken by a public authority are made publicly available along with the reasons and the considerations upon which they are based;

(b) With respect to **paragraph 2** of article 6 bis, how the requirements made in accordance with the provisions of annex I bis are complementary to and mutually supportive of the Party's national biosafety framework and consistent with the objectives of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biodiversity.

Answer: The European Union directive that refers to the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment (2001/18/EC), was incorporated into our national law with JMD 38639/2017/21-9-2005 (GG 1334/21-9 -2005). This directive regulates the deliberate release of GMOs both for research purposes and for placing on the market , always with a focus on the protection of the environment and human health. According to JMD as Competent Authority responsible for the deliberate release of GMOs for research and development purposes has been designated the Ministry for Environment Energy and Climate Change and Competent Authority responsible for the deliberate release of GMOs for placing on the market is the Ministry of Rural Development and Food. In addition, Articles 12 and 27 of the said JMD provides a clear process for public consultation and access to information. Article 15 of the above JMD provides for public participation regarding their placing on the market (for commercial use). Note that under this JMD not submitted a request (notification file) to Ministry of Environment (YPEKA) for experimental cultivation of GMOs and therefore is not available for public consultation and participation in decision making. Similarly, not submitted a request for cultivation of GMOs to Ministry of Rural Development and Food for placing on the market purposes . In addition JMD 11642/1943/2002 which transposed Directive 98/81 regarding contained use of Genetically modified microorganisms (GMMs),also provides in Article 12 for public participation. Labeling and traceability of GMOs are also provided by EU Regulation 1830/2003.

B. As to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, ratified by L.3233/2004 (Gazette 51 / A / 18.2.2004),in article 23 of the Protocol ,public information and participation procedures are provided to support the requirements of paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Convention.

XXXIV. OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 6bis AND ANNEX I bis

Describe any **obstacles encountered** in the implementation of any of the paragraphs of article 6 bis and annex I bis.

Answer:

No available information

XXXV. FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 6bis AND ANNEX I bis

Provide further information on the practical application of the provisions on public participation in decisions on the deliberate release into the environment and placing on the market of genetically modified organisms in article 6 bis, e.g. are there any statistics or other information available on public participation in such decisions or on decisions considered under paragraph 2 of annex I bis to be exceptions to the public participation procedures in that annex

Answer: No available information

XXXVI. WEBSITE ADDRESSES RELEVANT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6bis

Give relevant website addresses, if available, including website addresses for registers of decisions and releases related to genetically modified organisms:

Answer : The list of authorised genetically modified organisms and the exact scope of authorisation is in the register of GM food and feed in the EU, on the site:

www.ec.europa.eu/food/dyna/gm_register/index_en.cfm

Page 1: [31] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:17:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [31] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:17:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [31] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:17:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [31] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:17:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [31] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:17:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [31] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:26:00 PM**

Font: 10 pt, Font color: Custom Color(RGB(136;136;136)), Pattern: Clear

Page 1: [31] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:27:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [31] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:27:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [31] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:27:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [31] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:27:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [31] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:27:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [31] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:27:00 PM**

Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [31] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:27:00 PM**
Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [31] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:27:00 PM**
Font: (Default) Times New Roman

Page 1: [31] Formatted **IFLOW15** **12/21/2010 3:22:00 PM**
Font: 10 pt, Font color: Custom Color(RGB(136;136;136)), Pattern: Clear

Page 1: [32] Formatted **mama2** **11/22/2010 3:16:00 PM**
Font color: Indigo

Page 1: [32] Formatted **mama2** **11/22/2010 3:17:00 PM**
Font color: Auto

Page 1: [32] Formatted **mama2** **11/22/2010 3:17:00 PM**
Font color: Blue

Page 1: [32] Formatted **mama2** **11/22/2010 3:17:00 PM**
Font color: Auto

Page 1: [32] Formatted **mama2** **12/5/2010 9:19:00 PM**
Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt

Page 1: [32] Formatted **mama2** **12/5/2010 9:19:00 PM**
Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt, Font color: Auto

Page 1: [32] Formatted **mama2** **11/24/2010 1:58:00 AM**
English (U.S.)

Page 1: [32] Formatted **mama2** **12/5/2010 11:10:00 PM**
Font: Bold

Page 1: [32] Formatted **mama2** **12/5/2010 11:10:00 PM**
Font: Bold

Page 1: [33] Formatted user 11/18/2010 4:46:00 PM
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [34] Formatted mama2 12/5/2010 11:19:00 PM
English (U.S.)

Page 1: [35] Formatted IFLOW15 12/7/2010 1:57:00 PM
Font: Not Bold

Page 1: [36] Formatted mama2 12/20/2010 3:26:00 PM
English (U.K.)

Page 1: [36] Formatted mama2 12/16/2010 12:21:00 AM
Font: Bold

Page 1: [36] Formatted mama2 12/5/2010 9:38:00 PM
Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt

Page 1: [36] Formatted mama2 12/5/2010 9:38:00 PM
Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt

Page 1: [36] Formatted mama2 12/5/2010 9:38:00 PM
Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt

Page 1: [36] Formatted mama2 12/5/2010 9:38:00 PM
Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt

Page 1: [36] Formatted mama2 12/5/2010 9:38:00 PM
Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt

Page 1: [36] Formatted mama2 12/5/2010 9:38:00 PM
Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt

Page 1: [36] Formatted mama2 12/5/2010 9:38:00 PM
Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt

Page 1: [36] Formatted **mama2** **12/5/2010 9:38:00 PM**
Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt

Page 1: [36] Formatted **mama2** **12/5/2010 9:38:00 PM**
Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt

Page 1: [36] Formatted **mama2** **12/15/2010 7:43:00 AM**
Default Paragraph Font

Page 1: [36] Formatted **mama2** **11/18/2010 12:31:00 AM**
English (U.K.)

Page 4: [37] Deleted **mama2** **1/9/2011 8:44:00 PM**
Additionally, a Citizens' Service Bureau operates within the MoE and a Citizen's Service Bureau or a Public Relations Department operates in other Ministries to assist citizens in dealing with public administration. In addition, a Press Department operates in every ministry that is competent for issuing press releases regarding each ministry's activities. It should be also mentioned that a special help desk, which consists of officers especially appointed for public information and assistance on relevant issues, has been established by the Managing Unit of the Operational Environment Programme (EPPER) under the MoE. Access to environmental information concerning the EPPER can also be acquired through the respective website (www.epper.gr).

Page 16: [38] Deleted **mama2** **1/24/2011 10:39:00 AM**
The time limits of article 4, paragraph 2, of the Convention are met by Law 3422/2005. The environmental information is made available as soon as possible and at the latest within one month after the request has been submitted, unless the volume and the complexity of the information justify an extension of this period up to two months.

In addition, the aforementioned time limits of the Convention are fully met (more strictly) by article 3, paragraph 3, of the JMD 11764/653/2006. More specifically public authorities, with regard to any timescale specified by the applicant, make available environmental information held by or for them to any applicant at his request, at the latest within 20 days after the receipt of the request by the public authority or within two months after the receipt of the request if the volume and the complexity of the information is such that the 20-day period cannot be complied with.

In addition, law 2690/1999, the Administrative Procedure Code (OJG A45/9-3-1999), stipulates also in article 4 relevant time limits for public authorities (60 days at the latest) and in article 5 a one-month time limit after the receipt of the request for informing the

applicant of any rejection of his request. Additionally, according to the Constitution the competent authority is obliged to reply to requests for information and for issuing documents, especially certificates, supporting documents and attestations, within a set deadline not exceeding 60 days, as specified by law. In the event that this deadline elapses without action or in case of unlawful refusal, in addition to any other sanctions and consequences of law, special compensation is also paid to the applicant, as specified by law (Art. 10, para. 3, of the Constitution 1975/1986/2001).

According to Article 5 (a) of the Constitution:

(a) All persons are entitled to information, as specified by law. Restrictions to this right may be imposed by law only insofar as they are absolutely necessary and justified for reasons of national security, for combating crime or for protecting the rights and interests of third parties;

(b) All persons are entitled to participate in the Information Society. Facilitation of access to electronically handled information, as well as of the production, exchange and diffusion thereof constitutes an obligation of the State, always in observance of the guarantees of Articles 9, 9 (a) and 19. It is generally considered that according to the above provisions for the Constitution of a general civil right of access to information has been established.

Public authorities may refuse a request for accessing to environmental information for the reasons and exceptions provided under article 4, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Convention ratified by Law 3422/2005, as well as under article 4 of JMD 11764/653/2006 which transposed Directive 2003/4. Additionally, the Administrative Procedure Code (Law 2690/1999, art.5, and Law 1599/86, art.16) stipulates certain cases in which public authorities may refuse a request to access administrative documents. The reasons of refusal of the request under the Convention are fully met in the above JMD which transposed EU Directive 2003/4. Public authorities may refuse a request if the request relates to information on emissions into the environment. Concerning the confidentiality of personal data, public authorities take into consideration the requirements of the provisions of law 2472/1997 (A 50) through which Directive 95/46/EC on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data, has been transposed.

According to Article 4, paragraph 2 of the above JMD 11764/653/2006, the grounds for refusal mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the same article are interpreted in a restrictive way, taking into account for the particular case the public interest served by disclosure. In every particular case, the public interest served by disclosure shall be weighed against the interest served by the refusal. Further details on the above issue are regulated by the same article of the above JMD which transposed Directive 2003/4. For the purposes of the application of subparaGraph (f) concerning the confidentiality of personal data relating to a natural person, public authorities take into consideration the requirements of the provisions of law 2472/1997 (A50) which has transposed Directive 95/54/EC on the

protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data.

Page 16: [40] Deleted **mama2** **1/24/2011 10:42:00 AM**

According to article 3, paragraph 4, of JMD 11764/653/2006, if the information requested is not held by or for the public authority to which the request is addressed, the public authority transfers the request to the competent authority within three days and informs the applicant accordingly. In addition, according to article 4, paragraph 1, of Law 2690/1999 (the Administrative Procedure Code, OJG A45/9-3-1999) if the request is addressed to a public authority which is not responsible for a response, the public authority transfers the request to the competent authority within five days and also informs the applicant accordingly.

Page 16: [41] Deleted **mama2** **1/24/2011 10:43:00 AM**

According to article 4, paragraph 5, of JMD 11764/653/2006, environmental information held by or for public authorities which has been requested by an applicant is made available in part where it is possible to separate out any information falling within the scope of paragraph 1 (d) and (e) or paragraph 2 from the rest of the information requested. Paragraph 1 (d) concerns material in the course of completion or unfinished documents or data and paragraph 1 (e) internal communications, and paragraph 2 concerns cases for a request for environmental information to be refused

Page 16: [42] Deleted **mama2** **1/24/2011 10:44:00 AM**

According to Law 3422/2005, the refusal is made as soon as possible and at the latest within one month unless the complexity of the information justifies an extension of this period up to two months after the request. Article 4, paragraph 6, of JMD 11764/653/2006 provides a stricter time limit. More specifically, a refusal to make available all or part of the environmental information requested is notified to the applicant in writing or electronically, within 20 days or, in case of complexity of information, two months. Further details on this issue are regulated by the above JMD through which the EU Directive was transposed. In addition, according to Law 2690/1999 (Administrative Procedure Code) the refusal to access to administrative documents should also state the reason for the refusal and the applicant should be notified at the latest within one month from the receipt of the request.

Page 16: [43] Deleted **mama2** **1/24/2011 10:45:00 AM**

According to article 5 of JMD 11764/653/2006, access to any public registers or lists established and maintained as and examination is situ of the information requested is free of charge. Public authorities do not make any charge for supplying any environmental information. Yet it is provided that under a relevant JMD – not yet edited – public authorities may make a charge for supplying any environmental information, but such charge shall not exceed a reasonable amount.

Page 16: [44] Deleted **mama2** **1/15/2011 10:40:00 AM**

In many cases, requests are general or unreasonable, and the administration must ask the applicant to

Page 16: [45] Deleted **mama2** **1/15/2011 10:44:00 AM**

administration must inform the applicant within the time limits mentioned above;

- (c) A survey on electric and electronic equipment sector and waste of electric and electronic equipment – Report and database development (ongoing);
- (d) A survey on construction and demolition sector and construction and demolition waste produced in Greece – Report and database development (ongoing);
- (e) An inventory of the uncontrolled dumpsites in Greece – report and database development (completed in 2005);
- (f) A national hazardous waste management plan (JMD 8668/2007 (OJG 287/B/2-3-2007; completed in 2007));
- (g) A national health-care waste management plan (ongoing);
- (h) A national plan for the management of biological sludge (Project at allocation procedure), (ongoing);
- (i) A guidance document for the industrial waste management plan (completed in 2006);
- (j) A guidance document for the internal control of the landfill sites and occupational safety (circular under preparation; completed in 2007);
- (k) A permanent inventory of control system on combustion from permanent sources and vehicles – Establishment of database and production of relevant annual report;
- (l) A programme for the re-evaluating of 69 important bird areas for their characterization as special protection areas for birds – action plans for the protection of species of priority (ongoing);
- (m) Identification of compatible activities in compliance with the qualifying species of the special protected areas.

Overview of current and planned activities, initiatives, dates and frequencies of reports: Regular response to the European Commission Reporting Obligations is being continued on the basis of respective national laws. Among these some specific issues are:

(a) In the framework of the new Law 3199/9-12-2003 (OJG 280A/2003) on water protection and the sustainable management of the water resources, followed by the PD 51/8-3-2007, with which the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) is transposed into the national legislation, some of the relevant activities concerning environmental information are:

(i) A project on supporting actions regarding Water Framework Directive implementation, including, inter alia, the drafting of a national guidance describing specific actions in every River Basin District (RBD) (ongoing).

(ii) Implementation of the Water Framework Directive's articles 5 and 6 and annexes II–IV. The Central Water Agency, aiming to reporting to the EC through the WISE system on the following topics: characterization of each RBD, analysis of anthropogenic pressures and impacts, determination of reference conditions, economic analysis of water uses, registration of protected areas (ongoing);

(iii) A project for the development of a new monitoring network for inland surface (rivers, lakes), transitional, coastal and ground waters, including the development of monitoring programmes for biological quality parameters and assessment/classification of their ecological quality (ongoing);

(iv) An annual report on the quality of bathing waters;

(v) Project for the update of the National Databank of Hydrological and Meteorological Information. This project aims at the organization and dissemination of the Hydrological Information in Greece. It is a distributed relational database covering a wide area network (ongoing);

(vi) Monitoring and protection of bathing waters and the marine environment (ongoing);

(b) An Athens daily air pollution report, also available on the Internet;

(c) An annual report on “Air Pollution in Athens-2006” available also on the Internet;

(d) Report on the revision of the 2002 National Strategy for Sustainable Development of Greece, encompassing the same priorities (seven challenges and two cross-cutting issues) as the Renewed EU Strategy for Sustainable Development. (2006), plus four additional priorities of national interest, i.e. culture, tourism, agriculture and physical planning.

To meet Greece's convention obligations, national reports are submitted on a regular basis which include environmental information, namely:

(a) The third national report for the Convention of Biological Diversity, which is in its final stage of preparation;

(b) The national report for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (under preparation);

(c) The national report for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (under preparation);

(d) The national report on implementation of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA and Biodiversity Protocol) to the the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention);

(e) Regular response to the reporting of the EC Air Emissions and Climate Change Directives(88/609 (2005), 2001/81 (2005,2006,2007), 96/61 (2006), 1999/13 (2006)), in to reports to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution;

(f) Reports on the implementation of various Directives of the European Commission relating to waste and the protection of the environment:

- (i) Directive 75/442/EEC on waste;
- (ii) Directive 86/278/EEC on the protection of the environment, and in particular the soil, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture;
- (iii) Directive 91/689/EEC on hazardous waste;
- (iv) Directive 1999/31/EEC on the landfill of waste;
- (g) Preparation of a national state-of-the-environment report (ongoing).

In the framework of the directive 96/61/EC concerning integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC) and the European Pollutant Emission Register (EPER), two reports were drafted and published (Reports EPER 1 and 2) in 2004 and 2006.

Page 24: [53] Deleted	mama2	1/21/2011 7:54:00 PM
------------------------------	--------------	-----------------------------

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through directorate YDAS-2, handles Greece's relations with the OECD Development Assistance Committee. It maintains the official statistical database on development assistance provided by Greece and sends detailed statistical data to the Development Assistance Committee, in fulfilment of the country's obligation. YDAS-2 also draws up the Annual YDAS Report, which is submitted to the Parliament, as well as other publications, such as Greece's *Contribution Towards Attaining the Millennium Development Goals*.

Page 27: [54] Formatted	mama2	1/22/2011 6:42:00 PM
--------------------------------	--------------	-----------------------------

English (U.K.)

Page 27: [54] Formatted	mama2	1/22/2011 6:42:00 PM
--------------------------------	--------------	-----------------------------

English (U.K.)

Page 27: [55] Formatted	mama2	1/22/2011 6:42:00 PM
--------------------------------	--------------	-----------------------------

English (U.K.)

Page 27: [55] Formatted	mama2	1/22/2011 6:42:00 PM
--------------------------------	--------------	-----------------------------

English (U.K.)

Page 27: [56] Formatted	mama2	1/22/2011 8:53:00 PM
--------------------------------	--------------	-----------------------------

French (France)

Page 27: [56] Formatted	mama2	1/22/2011 8:53:00 PM
--------------------------------	--------------	-----------------------------

French (France)

Page 27: [57] Formatted	mama2	1/22/2011 6:50:00 PM
--------------------------------	--------------	-----------------------------

English (U.K.)

Page 27: [57] Formatted **mama2** **1/22/2011 6:50:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 27: [57] Formatted **mama2** **1/22/2011 6:50:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 27: [57] Formatted **mama2** **1/22/2011 6:50:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 27: [57] Formatted **mama2** **1/22/2011 6:50:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 27: [58] Formatted **mama2** **1/22/2011 6:50:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 27: [58] Formatted **mama2** **1/22/2011 6:50:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 27: [58] Formatted **mama2** **1/22/2011 6:50:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 27: [58] Formatted **mama2** **1/22/2011 6:50:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 27: [58] Formatted **mama2** **1/22/2011 6:50:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 27: [58] Formatted **mama2** **1/22/2011 6:50:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 27: [58] Formatted **mama2** **1/22/2011 6:50:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Page 27: [58] Formatted **mama2** **1/22/2011 6:50:00 PM**
English (U.K.)

Font: Not Bold

Font: Not Bold

Concerning the relevant definitions in article 2 and the non discrimination requirement in article 3, see information under article 5 of the Convention. In Greece, the general public and NGOs can submit comments and proposals on environmental issues at the preliminary stages of the decision-making process.

All requirements of article 6 of the Convention are met by Law 3422/2005, which ratified the Convention.

Law 3010/2002, transposing into national legislation EU Directives 96/61/EC, where appropriate, as well as 97/11/EC and amending Law 1650/1986 for the protection of the environment in conjunction with three relevant JMDs has since 2003 upgraded the national EIA procedure for projects and activities. These JMDs, which specify the groups of projects or activities that are subject to an EIA, the environmental permitting procedure, and the contents and publication process for the Environmental Impact Study (EIS), are the following:

- (a) JMD 15393/2332/2002(OJG 332B/2002) on the classification of public and private projects and activities into groups;
- (b) JMD 11014/703/2003(OJG 332B/2003) on the procedures of preliminary environmental impact assessment and approval of environmental terms;
- (c) JMD 37111/2021/2003(OJG 1391B/29-9-2003) on the procedure for informing the public and public participation within the framework of the environmental permitting system.

EU Directive 2003/35 on “providing for public participation regarding the drawing up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment and amending with regard to public participation and access to justice Council Directives 85/337/EEC and 96/61/EC” was effectively transposed into the Greek legislation through the enactment of two JMDs: the above-mentioned JMDs, 37111/2021/2003(OJG 1391B/29-9-2003), and JMD 9269/470/2007(OJG 286B/2-3-2007), define measures of judicial protection of the public against acts or omissions of the Public Administration regarding access to information and public participation during the EIA process and in particular during the procedure for approval of environmental terms. The aforementioned JMDs also meet all requirements of article 6 of the Convention.

In general, the EIA procedure is carried out at the central, regional and local authority levels for large, medium and small-scale projects, respectively. EIA is a two-stage process that involves the following steps:

- (a) Screening and scoping (carried out as a preliminary EIA procedure, at the end of which the public is informed of the outcome);
- (b) Submission of application (including the Environmental Impact Survey) to the competent environmental authority;
- (c) Quality review of the submitted documentation;
- (d) Consultation with other relevant authorities and public participation (these take place concurrently and include transboundary consultations when necessary);
- (e) Opinions sent to competent authority within specified time period;
- (f) Issuance of EIA decision (“decision for approval of environmental terms”);
- (g) Publication of decision, so that the public is informed.

Moreover:

- (a) Public participation takes place early enough so that all options are still open, although public administration has already expressed its preliminary opinion during the preliminary EIA opinion;
- (b) The public concerned is provided enough time to express its opinion.

EIA studies are announced publicly to the competent Prefecture Councils. The official opinions on the preliminary environmental assessment and evaluation and on the decisions of environmental terms approval are also notified to the above competent Prefecture Councils. The preliminary environmental estimation and evaluation (PEEE) is a first opinion of the administration and it is not binding. In addition, the text of PEEE is publicized (for public information only) by the competent Prefecture Council. A similar public announcement is also provided to the authorities of a neighbour EU Member State (transboundary consultation) when there are possible environmental impacts of the assessed activities. Environmental NGOs, local representatives and local competent bodies, as well as any person, can submit comments either to the Prefecture Council or to the competent public authority respectively.

During the EIA/SEA procedures (environmental permitting of projects/plans and programmes) appropriate environmental information concerning each case is submitted to the competent administration service.

All official legislative documentation concerning EIA/SEA procedures is provided upon request. Upon an application, the administration provides in due time the information requested concerning official documents or other documentation concerning the EIA/SEA files submitted to it, as soon as the public participation process has begun. No internal consultation document concerning open judicial procedures is provided.

Within the framework of national legislation, public authorities and specifically the Prefectures have the responsibility to publish or otherwise make publicly available specific information of the Environmental Impact Survey of any industry or plan to organize industrial areas and industrial parks, while options are still open and during the preparation of the regulations and acceptance. Opportunity to comment is given to public at the latest within 30 days, directly, or through representative consultative bodies.

A request for a permit for electric energy production to the competent energy authority (Ministry of Development), is rendered in public by the applicant according to procedure provided by the relevant Regulation and Law 2773/1999. A feasibility study and a preliminary environmental assessment are prerequisites. Any interested person can access to information concerning the relevant request held by the above authority and can submit reasoned objections. An EIA decision (JMD) issued by the MoE is also required.

Public participation with regard to decisions permitting the deliberate release of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) into the environment under article 6, paragraph 11, of the Convention is provided for by Law 3422/05 which ratified the Convention. In addition, the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment, including their placing on the market within the EU, is provided by Directive 2001/18/EC. Article 12 of JMD 38639/2017/2005 (OJG B 1334), which transposed the above directive, provides for public participation regarding decisions permitting the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment (for experimental use). Article 15 of the above JMD provides for public participation regarding their placing on the market (for commercial use).

As regards GMOs, the Nature Management Section of MoE handles all non-commercial (i.e. experimental) issues of the subject. No notification files have been submitted until today regarding GMOs under Directive 2001/18/EC.

In addition, JMD 11642/1943/2002, which transposed Directive 98/81 regarding contained use of genetically modified microorganisms, also provides in its article 12 for public participation. Labelling and traceability of GMOs are also provided for by EU Regulation 1830/2003.

Page 27: [61] Change **Edgar** **6/9/2008 2:32:00 PM**
Formatted Bullets and Numbering

Page 29: [62] Deleted **mama2** **1/24/2011 12:27:00 PM**
Joint Ministerial Decision (JMD) 107017/2006 has introduced the necessary provisions for the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, or strategic environmental assessment (SEA). A number of plans

and programmes at the national, regional or local levels are adopted through a formal procedure in sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, tourism, water resources management, waste management, urban or physical planning and land use, which are likely to have significant environmental effects, are made subject to an SEA.

In particular, a consultation process was followed on the respective SEA studies for the three Special Frameworks of Spatial Planning on Renewable Energy Sources, Industry and Tourism. In general, the SEA procedure takes place on the central level for national, interregional and regional plans and programmes and on a regional level for local (prefecture and inter-prefecture) plans and programmes, and entails the following steps:

- (a) Optional scoping;
- (b) Screening (public is informed of outcome);
- (c) Submission of application (including the Strategic Environmental Impact Study (SEIS)) to the competent environmental authority;
- (d) Quality review of the submitted documentation;
- (e) Consultation with other relevant authorities and public participation (these take place concurrently and include transboundary consultations when necessary);
- (f) Opinions sent to competent authority within specified time period;
- (g) Issuance of SEA decision, which includes monitoring measures;
- (h) Publication of the decision, so that the public is informed.

Thereafter, the proposed plan or programme must be adapted in order to comply with the SEA decision. The Special Environmental Service is the central competent authority for the environmental permitting of plans and programmes.

According to the EU Water Framework Directive requirements, Member States must encourage the active involvement of all interested parties, in particular in the production, review and updating of the River Basin Management Plans to be developed by the end of 2009. Member States are obliged to publish the River Basin Management Plans for comments by any interested party. The publication procedure of the River Basin Management Plans to be developed for each RBD of the country is described in article 15 of Presidential Decree 51/2007, which transposes mainly the technical requirements of the Water Framework Directive into national legislation. According to this legislative framework, the Regional Water Councils are responsible to inform the public and make available the draft copies of the River Basin Management Plans for comments. Comments in writing to the draft copies by the public can be submitted within six months (at the latest) from the publication date.

On request, access can be given to background documents and information used for the development of the draft river basin management plans. According to the new legislation for the protection and sustainable management of water resources in Greece (Law 3199/2003, art. 3, para. 6, and art.6), which integrates the public

participation requirements of the Water Framework Directive, the active involvement of interested parties is ensured through their representation to the National and Regional (in the 13 Regional Water Districts) Water Councils that are being developed as part of the new administrative framework of the country. The National and the 13 Regional Water Councils are advisory boards in which all national and regional interested groups, such as involved organizations, NGOs, etc., are represented.

All calls for tenders, to be financed by the Special Service for Management of the EPPER, are publicized in large and high-circulation newspapers as well as displayed on the official EPPER website.

The implementation of the Operational Programmes under the competence of EPPER is monitored regularly by an established Monitoring Committee which operates under approved Rules of Procedure. Representatives of competent bodies, as well as representatives of social partners (stakeholders) and NGOs, participate in this Monitoring Committee.

Two public consultations were held on plans of the Operational Programme drawn by the above Special Service concerning the preparation and the drafting of EPPERAA for the period 2007–2013. The first public consultation took place from 31 October 2006 to 30 March 2007. The second public consultation took place from 2 April 2007 until 20 July 2007. During these two periods the draft of the Operational Programme were early displayed for public consultation for a long time in the MoE website, and they were also sent to 150 representatives of competent bodies asking for any kind of contribution, e.g. comments, suggestions or remarks. Many written as well as oral (phone) suggestions were submitted and were taken into consideration in the final draft of the Operational Programme, which was sent to European Commission for final approval.

The strategic impact assessment of EPPERAA drafted under the responsibility and guidance of the above Special Service was also opened to public consultation and press communication according to JMD107017, which introduced the necessary provisions for the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, or else SEA, transposing Directive 2001/42/EK (ΦΕΚ 1225 Β).

The National Council for Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development (NCSPSD), established according to Law 2742/1999, had given its opinion in 2002 on a draft Special Framework of Spatial Planning of Coastal Areas prepared by the MoE, but the process was not concluded. More recently, the NCSPSD gave also its opinion on two National Frameworks of Spatial Planning, one general and one specific (i.e. thematic) on renewable energy sources. Two more National Special Frameworks of Spatial Planning are to be submitted to NCSPSD for consultation in the coming weeks: one on industry and one on tourism. When this process is concluded in the coming months, two more National Special

Frameworks of Spatial Planning, currently close to being finalized by the MoE, will be submitted to NCSPSD: one on coastal and inland areas and another on mountainous areas.

According to Law 2508/97 the involved public authorities and relevant local stakeholders are asked to provide their official opinion for the approval of the general master city plan. Concerning urban studies and city plans, publication in newspapers is required and a consultation takes place at the local authority. The interested public can submit relevant rejections. In the case of a radical renewal project in an urban area, a consensus of 60 per cent of the landowners is required for the project to be approved.

The local authorities are mainly involved in urban planning and have general advisory competence, according to which the central authorities ask for their previous consultation every time they plan to adopt a regulatory measure that will affect the environment or local planning.

The adoption of policies relating to the environment rather takes the form of strategies or programmes or legislative acts. In this framework the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, drawn up by the NCESD and approved by the Ministerial Council in June 2002, was prepared through collaboration with the “National Coordination Committee of the Government Policy in the field of Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development” that was at the time also acting as the National Preparatory Committee of Greece regarding the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development, encompassing representatives from competent ministries and NCESD. Representatives from local authorities, employers and trade unions, research institutes and NGOs also participated in the preparation procedure, directly through thematic working groups or through participation in more open workshops. Representatives from the MoE, local authorities, employer and trade unions, research institutes and NGOs also participated in the National Council for Physical Planning and Sustainable Development. Currently, we are conducting a review of the 2002 Strategy process which will be finalized shortly. Almost all ministries and civil society groups have been involved in this review process from its very initial preparatory stages. Prior to the drafting of the revised Strategy’s first draft, an open invitation was uploaded via the MoE website to all groups and entities to become involved in the dialogue process in the context of a public consultation.

The participation of NCESD, through its official opinion as well as of other local stakeholders and civil partners, takes place in the consultation for the following programmes and plans:

- (a) Elaboration of the National Plan of Strategic Agricultural Development for the period 2007–2013, on environment issues such as water resources management, biodiversity, protected areas and climate change;
- (b) Elaboration and implementation of the policy regarding the management of water resources in a water basin based on the Agenda 21 Principles and on the Framework Directive guidance 2000/60/EE (Life 04/Env.Gr/000099 Water Agenda);
- (c) Management of Water Resources and Wetland protection in the programme for developing tourism areas (MANWATER INTEREG III, STRAND B, ARCHIMED);
- (d) Elaboration of the National Development Plan (National Strategic) Framework;
- (e) Elaboration of the European Rural Policy (2007–2013).

Page 29: [64] Formatted **mama2** **1/24/2011 11:28:00 AM**

Indent: Left: 1 cm, No bullets or numbering, Tabs: Not at 1 cm

Page 31: [65] Deleted **mama2** **1/24/2011 12:12:00 PM**

According to Article 24 of the Constitution, the protection of the natural and cultural environment constitutes a duty of the State and a right of everyone. The State is bound to adopt special preventive and repressive measures for the preservation of the environment in the concept of sustainable development. The Greek legal system fulfils the rights and obligations proclaimed by the Convention, as it adequately secures judicial protection in environmental cases, irrespective of whether the dispute arisen derives from private entity activities or from acts or omissions of the public authorities and whether the claims for judicial protection involve the prevention of environmental damage or the payment of damages.

Law 1650/86 on the protection of the environment as amended by Law 3010/2002 and implemented by several Presidential Decrees and JMDs is the basic environmental protection law in Greece. A great number of EU Directives on the environment have been transposed in the Greek legislation and several laws on environmental issues e.g. on the protection of the marine environment and on the protection of forests etc also provide for environmental protection.

In addition, concerning access to information, according to the Constitution the competent service or authority is obliged to reply to requests for information and documents within a set deadline not exceeding 60 days, as specified by law. In the case that this deadline elapses without action or in case of unlawful refusal, in addition to any other sanctions and consequences of law, special compensation is also paid to the applicant, as specified by law (Art. 10, para. 3, of the Constitution). (See more information on the right of access to information under article 3.)

Aiming at citizens' protection, there are also several possibilities for administrative and judicial review, such as the application for remedy, special recourses, quasi-

judicial recourses, hierarchical recourses and hierarchical control exercised by superior authorities over subordinate authorities, actions for compensation according to civil liability provisions, as well as several judicial recourses.

The enactment of JMD 11764/653/2006 on access to environmental information has also contributed to facilitating public seeking access to justice in environmental matters. According to article 6 of the above JMD, citizens have the following possibilities for administrative and judicial review:

- (a) File an action for compensation before the Special Committee as provided by Law 1943/1991 (art. 5, para. 13);
- (b) File an action for compensation before the competent court according to the civil liability provisions;
- (c) File a quasi-judicial recourse before the Special Committee as provided by Law 1943/1991 (art. 5, para. 13) for the modification or reconsideration of the acts or omissions of the public authority. The interested physical or legal person has the right to file an administrative recourse before the Administrative Court, against the decision of the above Special Committee.

JMD 11764/653/2006, which transposed Directive 2003/4, repealed JMD 77921/1440/6-9-95 on access to environmental information. By the repealed JMD, a Committee on Access to Environmental Information had been established, competent for the administrative review of the applicant's request rejection by the public authority. Today, according to the new JMD 11764/653/2006, this Committee has been replaced by a Special Committee established by Law 1943/1991 (art. 13, para. 5) as amended, which is now competent for the above administrative review of the applicant's request rejection.

Additionally, the enactment of JMD 9269/470/2007 (OG 286B/2-3-2007), which defines measures of judicial protection of the public against acts or omissions of the public administration regarding access to information and public participation during EIA, has also contributed essentially in facilitating access to justice in environmental matters. According to article 3 of the above JMD, citizens have the following possibilities for administrative and judicial review:

- (a) For administrative review:
 - (i) Application for remedy submitted before MoE according to law 2690/1999 (art. 24), by which the applicant asks for the annulment or modification of the initial administrative decision/act concerning public information and participation during environmental impact assessment of the relevant activities;
 - (ii) Special recourses that are submitted before MoE, by which the applicant asks for the annulment or modification of the General Secretary of the Region Initial Act concerning public information and participation during EIA of the relevant activities;
- (b) For judicial review:

- (i) File an action for compensation before the competent court according to civil liability provisions;
- (ii) Petition (written) of annulment before the Council of State;
 - a) Against acts or omissions of the public administration, with respect to whether an application for remedy has been submitted or not;
 - b) Against the administrative decisions/acts or against omissions of the MoE taken after the submission of the special administrative recourse or against its omission (silent rejection).

Additionally, an important legal mechanism in many environmental cases constitutes the interim injunctive relief when an administrative decision with environmental consequences cannot be revoked. If the interim injunctive relief is admitted, a stay of execution is ordered if the danger is deemed probable unless there are specific grounds of public interest.

Regarding enforcement, the Special Service of Environmental Inspectors (SSEI) has been established under Presidential Decree 165 on the “administrative organization of SSEI” (OJG A137/ in June 2003, covering with its two Divisions for Northern and Southern Greece the whole country, thus contributing to the effective enforcement of environmental legislation and increasing the overall credibility of environmental policy in the country. The Environmental Inspectorate is responsible for environmental infringements concerning breach of environmental law and monitoring and compliance with environmental legislation.

Additionally, the Ombudsman has jurisdiction over cases concerning disputes between citizens and public administration units, such as government services, local and regional government (e.g. communities, municipalities, prefectures), other public institutions and private law entities of the public sector, corporations and organizations that are under control either by the State or by legal entities of the public sector. The Ombudsman can intervene when, in dealing with the public administration, an individual or legal entity encounters: (a) refusal to supply information or insufficient provision of information; (b) Unreasonable delay in processing applications; (c) infringement of laws or violation of procedure; (d) administrative irregularities or omissions; or (e) discrimination against individuals.

Article 4 (1975) of the Constitution provides for the principle of equality (see article 5). In addition, Law 3304/2005 on the “Implementing of the principle of equal treatment regardless of racial or ethnic origin, religious or other beliefs, disability, age or sexual orientation” through which the relevant EU Directives were transposed, constitutes a landmark in the promotion of the principle of equality and the protection of human rights in Greece. This Law reinforces the role of the Ombudsman by adding new competencies that are expected to help the institution fulfil its objectives more effectively and promote the principle of equal treatment. In addition, the Equal Treatment Committee of the Ministry of Justice

is assigned with combating discrimination in the private sector together with the Labour Inspectorate.

The independence of the judges is safeguarded by the Constitution. (Article 26). The Greek legal system allows direct access to the civil courts both to individuals and NGOs. In environmental cases the scope of legal standing has been remarkably expanded as a result of the jurisprudence of the Council of State.

In addition, there is no express prohibition against citizens from other States participating in court proceedings. NGOs in general can participate if they fulfil some requirements. The most important one is that NGOs should have as their aim, provided by their statutes, the protection of the environment. It could be said that in Greek law a quasi-*actio popularis* has been introduced by the jurisprudence of the Council of State since the *actio popularis* itself is not accepted.

Concerning costs in the judicial procedure, the applicant for the annulment of an administrative act before a Court must pay the standard stamp fees (normally not exceeding an amount of €10–30 Euros depending on the degree (instance) of the court and a special trial deposit fee set at the amount of €10–20 for general annulment disputes, depending also on the degree (instance) of the court. As for the legal counselling, the lowest mandatory costs are provided by law but generally in practice they are formulated and depend on the expertise of the appointed advocate and on Court degree (instance). Concerning costs for administrative procedure (special administrative recourse, and quasi-judicial recourse), there are no special costs.

Finally, concerning training curricula for judges, the school of national judges established by Law 2236/1994 provides educational seminars for judges on several issues while also providing special training for candidate judges. The judges can also take a leave of absence for a certain period of time to pursue relevant university studies in Greece or abroad. Special seminars on the environment and environmental law are also provided by the Athens Bar Association, specialized institutions, the Technical Chamber of Greece, etc. The Fifth Section of the Council of State is responsible for environmental administrative disputes. In this framework, a Member of the Hellenic Council of State participates in the Forum of International Environmental Judges.