

**HELLENIC REPUBLIC**  
**GREEK NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

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<p><b>Recommendations regarding the Scheme of Alternative Civil-Social Service</b></p>
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The NCHR proposed to the Ministry of National Defence amendments for the modernization of the Greek law regarding alternative civil-social service, instead of military service, in accordance with the relevant established principles of the Council of Europe and the case law of the European Court of Human Rights. The NCHR stressed, *inter alia*, that: a) the alternative service should be of a reasonable duration and never have the character of punishment; and b) the authority deciding upon requests for alternative service should be independent from the military and provide adequate procedural safeguards. Lastly, it recommended the abolishment of the possibility to buy out military or alternative service which raises compatibility issues with article 4(6) of the Constitution.

5 July 2001