

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
GREEK NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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<p>Decision on the Loss of Greek Nationality by Virtue of Former Article 19 of the Greek Nationality Code and the Procedure for its Reacquisition</p>
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The above provision, in force until 1998, led to the denationalisation of approximately 60,000 Greek citizens, mainly of Muslim/Turkish origin in Thrace, who had left Greece “with no intention of return”. The NCHR expressed its concern regarding the fact that the Greek State did not provide through statutory legislation for the reacquisition of Greek nationality in the above cases, given that former article 19 GNC was considered as contrary to the Greek Constitution and to contemporary human rights protection standards. The NCHR also pointed out that it would be necessary to promulgate specific statutory legislation providing for the possibility of reacquisition of Greek nationality in these cases. The NCHR also proposed that Greece accede to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

30 October 2003