



*HELLENIC REPUBLIC*

**GREEK NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

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Σε απάντηση του από 28/12/2016 εγγράφου του Υπουργείου Εξωτερικών Δ3 Δ/ση ΟΑΣΕ-Στ.Ε με ΑΠΦ 6622/ΑΣ 59409, με θέμα «Έκθεση Ευρωπαϊκής Επιτροπής κατά του Ρατσισμού και της Μισαλλοδοξίας (ECRI) του Συμβουλίου της Ευρώπης – Ενέργειες ελληνικής πλευράς», η ΕΕΔΑ επισημαίνει τα κάτωθι, όπως ζητήθηκε στην αγγλική γλώσσα:

The Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR), in its capacity as the independent advisory body to the State specialised in human rights issues and the national human rights institution in Greece, and in the light of its observations and recommendations, acknowledges the importance of the interim follow-up recommendations addressed by ECRI in its latest report on Greece.

**1. With regard to ECRI's Recommendation: "ECRI recommends the creation of a Task Force to develop a comprehensive national strategy to combat racism and intolerance. Such a Task Force should be composed of the relevant authorities, the two independent bodies (Ombudsman and National Human Rights Commission) and NGOs, so as to enhance the cooperation between the authorities and civil society on this matter. The national strategy should, inter alia, include a situation analysis, an overview of existing measures, gaps and needs, and strategic recommendations on how to address them, including targets and measurable indicators".**

The GNCHR welcomes the establishment of the "National Council against Racism and Intolerance" ("Council"), by virtue of Law 4356/2015 (OJ A 181/24-12-2015). The same law provides for the participation of the GNCHR in the Council. The GNCHR expresses its satisfaction that its recommendation that inter-ministerial synergies on human rights issues should be provided for by virtue of Law, for their continuity to be guaranteed, has been followed.

The pluralistic composition of the Council is of great value for the fulfillment of its mandate, as it ensures the participation of all interested stakeholders, including NGOs, third level trade unions and independent authorities. The GNCHR also considers of great importance the participation of the Racist Violence Recording Network (RVRN), which operates under the auspices of the GNCHR and the UNCHR, given that the RVRN has ad hoc experience on the relevant issues and is composed of 38 NGOs<sup>1</sup>.

The GNCHR is of the opinion that the ECRI's recommendation for a national strategy to combat racism and intolerance can be effectively met through the due operation of the Council.

**2. With regard to ECRI's Recommendation: "ECRI recommends that the question of a racist and/or homo-/transphobic motivation in cases of violent incidents is made an integral part of investigations and judicial proceedings from their very beginning. ECRI recommends training for the police, for which programmes proposed by international organisations could be used. ECRI also recommends that the authorities offer training to judges and prosecutors on the application of Article 81A of the Criminal Code on hate motivated offences".**

It should be stressed from the outset that with regard to the ECRI's recommendation on the training for police/judges and prosecutors, the GNCHR addressed the relevant stakeholders in order to receive concrete information (Hellenic Police, Ministry of Justice, National School of Judges [and Prosecutors], National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government (EKDDA)).

The GNCHR observes the existence of educational programs for police, judges and prosecutors which focus indeed on racism and hate crime. The National Council against Racism and Intolerance is already considering and planning to further empower these programs in order to ensure that the racist and/or homo-/transphobic motivation in cases of violent incidents is made an integral part of investigations and judicial proceedings from their very beginning.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://rvrn.org/>.

Taking into consideration the importance of the training of police, judges and prosecutors in combating hate crime, the GNCHR will continue to monitor the implementation of the relevant actions and policies.