

**GREEK NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (GNCHR)**  
**REGULATION**

THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE GREEK NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (GNCHR)

Taking into consideration:

- a) The provisions of Article 4(7) of Law 2667/1998 “Establishment of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights” (Government Gazette (GG) no. 281/A/1998), as amended by Article 12(11) of Government Act with legislative content () of 24 December 2015 (GG no.182/A/ 24.12.2015), which was ratified by Article One of Law 4366/2016 (GG no. 18/A/15.2.2016).
- b) The decision of the GNCHR Plenary dated June 13 2016 for drafting new Rules of Operation of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights.
- c) The fact that the provisions of the present act entail no expenditure under the national budget, we hereby decide:

**Article 1**

We hereby issue the Regulation of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR), reading as follows:

“REGULATION OF THE GREEK NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
(GNCHR)”

- 1. The GNCHR was established and is functioning in accordance with Law 2667/1997 (GG no. 281/A/1998), as currently in force.
- 2. The GNCHR constitutes the independent national institution for the protection of human rights. In international relations, the term “Greek National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR)”, shall be used, in its true translation.
- 3. The mission of the GNCHR is defined in paragraphs 5 and 6 of Article 1 and in Article 3 of Law 2667/1998, as currently in force.
- 4. The GNCHR Plenary.
  - 4.1 The GNCHR Plenary consists of the Members stipulated in Article 2 of Law 2667/1998, as currently in force.

4.2 The persons appointed as GNCHR Members have proven knowledge and experience in the field of Human Rights protection.

4.3 The members of the new composition of the GNCHR are appointed at the latest two (2) months before the end of the term of office of the previous composition.. The President's relevant invitation to the bodies that appoint the GNCHR members is posted on the website of the GNCHR.4.4. Bodies appointing GNCHR Members select the appropriate persons with transparency and in accordance with their specific rules of operation. The relevant decisions are published on the GNCHR website.

## 5. The President

5.1 The President is in charge of the constant overseeing, supervision and coordination of the work of the GNCHR. He or she shall represent it before any domestic or foreign Authority as well as before international organizations, equivalent national human rights institutions and their European and international network, as well as before non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

When the President is impeded, lacking or absent, the GNCHR shall be represented by the Vice-Presidents (1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President) in order of their rank.

5.2 The President may authorize a GNCHR Member to represent him/her, by reason of specialty, with regard to a specific issue in national or international conferences, conventions, meetings etc.

5.3 The President shall convene regular and extraordinary GNCHR sessions; preside at the sessions and sign, along with the person serving as secretary, the relevant minutes. In the event that the President is absent or impeded, he/she shall be substituted in the duties stipulated in this Article by the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President in order of their rank.

5.4 The President, following a decision of the GNCHR or on his/her own initiative, summons to a hearing before the GNCHR persons that could facilitate its mission by expressing opinions concerning Human Rights protection or by presenting their personal experiences. The invitation is effected in any appropriate way.

5.5 The President shall coordinate the operation of the Sub-Commissions and the work of the specialist staff.

5.6 The President shall oversee the operation of the Secretariat of the GNCHR.

## 6. The Board

6.1 The Board is consists of the President and the two Vice-Presidents.

6.2 The President shall draw up the agenda of the GNCHR sessions, in consultation with the two Vice-Presidents, and designate the rapporteurs.

6.3 The Board shall address current and urgent issues relating to the mission or the operation of the GNCHR in the interval between two regular Plenary sessions. To this end, and for the purpose of the effective planning of the work of the GNCHR, the Board shall meet at least

twice a week. In the month of August, the Board members shall be alternately in charge of overseeing the operation of the GNCHR. In each Plenary session, the Board shall inform the GNCHR of these activities.

6.4 The Board shall coordinate the issue of publications, periodic or not, assisted by other GNCHR Members and the specialist staff.

## 7. Operation of the GNCHR

7.1 The GNCHR Plenary shall meet regularly at least every two months and extraordinarily following an invitation of the President or a request of at least five (5) of its Members. The invitation is sent in any appropriate way. Members are summoned to a regular session on the Secretary's responsibility at least eight (8) days prior to the session. The deadline is limited to three (3) days for the extraordinary sessions.

7.2 The GNCHR Plenary shall have a quorum when at least the absolute majority of its members is present in the specific session and among the present members the President of the Commission or one Vice-President is included.

7.3 The representatives of the Ministries, as referred to under Article 2(1) (k) of Law 2667/1998, as currently in force, inform at the beginning of each session the GNCHR Plenary or the Sub-commissions on developments in the field of Human Rights in the field of their Ministry and retire before the debate for the decision making.

7.4 The decisions of the GNCHR Plenary shall be taken by a majority of the members present with voting rights. In the event of a tied vote, the President shall have the casting vote.

7.5 For every decision of the GNCHR Plenary, both views of the majority and the minority shall be recorded.

7.6 Minutes are kept under the President's responsibility by the Secretary of the Commission or, in case the latter is lacking or impeded, by a member of the Secretariat. If the GNCHR Plenary deems that for a particular issue it shall discuss and decide without the presence of a Secretary, minutes are kept by one of its members.

7.7 Full and alternate GNCHR members shall attend the sessions. Full members shall have voting rights and, in case they are absent or impeded, alternate members shall have voting rights as well.

7.8 The sessions of the GNCHR Plenary shall not be public.

7.9 The vote shall be open with the exception of [discussion on] GNCHR members' personal issues, where there shall be a secret ballot.

7.10 The GNCHR Plenary, by its decision, shall set, at the beginning of each semester, its areas of priorities for both the Plenary and the Sub-Commissions. Urgent issues or issues of great importance shall be added during the semester or shall be given priority for discussion.

7.11 Issues not included in the scope of the Sub-Commissions shall fall under the competence of the GNCHR Plenary. The GNCHR Plenary shall refer the examination and treatment of particular issues included in its mission to relevant Sub-Commissions.

## 8. Sub-commissions

8.1 Within the GNCHR operation the following Sub-commissions shall be established:

- A) The Sub-commission for Civil and Political Rights
- B) The Sub-commission for Social, Economic and Cultural Rights
- C) The Sub-commission for the Application of Human Rights to Aliens
- D) The Sub-commission for the Promotion of Human Rights (raising public awareness, mass media, education and other means)
- E) The Sub-commission for International Communication and Cooperation (review of reports in compliance with Greece's conventional obligations, exchange of information and communication with international bodies, organisations etc.)

8.2 Sub-commissions shall cooperate on issues, which inherently fall within the thematic competence of more than one Sub-commissions.

8.3 These Sub-commissions shall include full and alternate members, at their option, taking into consideration the need to balance participation in the Sub-commissions.

Each member shall participate at a maximum of two (2) Sub-commissions. There shall be a quorum when at least the absolute majority of the Sub-commission's members is present.

8.4 If a Sub-commission shall include the President or the Vice-Presidents, the latter shall chair this Sub-commission. The members of the remaining Sub-commissions shall elect a chairperson by relative majority. In all Sub-commissions members shall also elect the chairperson's alternate by relative majority. Full and alternate members who participate in the GNCHR Sub-commission, with the exception of representatives of Ministries, shall have the right to vote and be elected. The decision of the chairperson's election shall be revoked by the Sub-commission's members by absolute majority.

8.5 The chairperson shall have the responsibility of convening and running the Sub-commission, keeping the minutes, communicating with the GNCHR Plenary and the Board and updating them.

8.6 Sub-commissions shall regularly meet at least once a month and extraordinarily upon their member's decision.

8.7 Sub-commissions' decisions shall be made by an absolute majority of the present members. In any case, any minorities shall be recorded.

8.8 Sub-commissions' decisions are introduced to the Plenary which shall make the final decision. Once deemed meaningful, it shall decide when they shall be made public.

8.9 Sub-commissions' sessions shall not be public. Sub-commissions shall invite, at their own discretion, persons who can meaningfully contribute to addressing a particular issue on account of specialty or experience.

8.10 The GNCHR scientific staff shall assist Sub-Commissions in their operation and participate in their activities.

8.11 The Sub-Commissions shall express their opinions on the annual reports, which have been prepared by other authorities in compliance with Greece's conventional obligations and fall within their scope, once requested by the Fifth Sub-Commission.

8.12 The alternate members who participate in a session held by the Plenary or the Sub-Commissions', shall be entitled to the compensation in the form of a lump sum that full members receive.

## 9. Annual Report

9.1 The GNCHR shall prepare the annual Report in accordance with the provision of Article 1(h) of Law 2667/98, as in force.

9.2 The Sub-Commissions shall inform the Plenary of their activities by January 15th of each year.

9.3 The Ministries represented in the GNCHR shall submit by the end of each year information and observations about human rights protection falling within their mandate.

9.4 The GNCHR Report shall include all recommendations, proposals, reports and opinions which have been prepared during the year and which have emerged from issues raised by the Government, the Conference of Presidents of the Parliament and NGOs, or by initiatives of the GNCHR Plenary or Sub-Commissions. The GNCHR assessments of the general state of human rights in Greece or more specific issues that must receive special attention shall be included in the annual Report.

9.5 The Report shall be discussed at the Plenary upon the Board's suggestion and shall be approved by absolute majority. The minority opinion shall also be recorded in the Report.

9.6 The GNCHR publishes its annual Report following its submission to the Prime Minister and the Parliament.

9.7 Upon submission of the Annual Report to the Parliament, the GNCHR asks for its discussion in a pertinent session at a specific date.

## 10. Scientific and administrative support of the GNCHR

10.1 The GNCHR shall be scientifically supported by research officers who assist the GNCHR in terms of preparing reports, conducting scientific studies on issues assigned by the GNCHR Plenary or its Sub-Commissions, as well as updating about human rights developments in international governmental organisms and in international governmental or non-governmental organisations. Research officers shall organise an archive of texts and scientific studies and shall work on publications, periodic or not, which shall include the GNCHR activity and other material relating to human rights.

10.2 In line with Article 3 under Law 2667/98, the compilation of specialist studies may be assigned to working groups.

10.3 The GNCHR Secretariat is comprised of a Secretary and three employees for secretarial and technical support, appointed and remunerated in compliance with Article 8 of Law

2667/98, as in force. The Secretary shall manage the Secretariat. The President shall oversee its operation.

#### 11. Term of office of the GNCHR and its members

11.1 The GNCHR has a term of office of three (3) years. Every stakeholder that appoints a GNCHR Member shall propose its replacement only for a compelling reason. For the replacement of a GNCHR Member the GNCHR Plenary shall decide by virtue of a decision adopted in accordance with paragraphs 7.2, 7.4 and 7.8 of the present Rules of Operation.

11.2 The representatives of the Ministries in the GNCHR shall be replaced upon proposal of the competent Minister for serious reasons attributable to the interests of service which impede their regular participation in the GNCHR activity. The new representative shall merely complete the ongoing term of office of his/her predecessor.

### **Article 2**

The present decision shall be published in the Official Journal of the Hellenic Republic.

Athens, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016

THE PRESIDENT

GEORGIOS STAVROPOULOS