

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
GREEK NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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**Decision regarding Medical Care and Hospitalisation of
Stateless Persons, Members of the Minority of Thrace and
Other Categories of Aliens**

Following the receipt of a Commission Member's note addressed to the President, the NCHR's 2nd Sub-Commission convened on 02.11.2005, before referring the issue to the Plenary Session (on 09.02.2006). The issue in question is the loss of Greek nationality, on the basis of article 19 (now repealed) of the Greek Nationality Code. Although a solution was provided through naturalisation, the Thrace minority's non-nationals were only granted a non-national's pass without provision for medical care. This also applies to other vulnerable groups, such as asylum-seekers, uninsured recognised refugees and some other particular categories of immigrants. The NCHR, considering, among others, article 27 of the ICESCR, recommended that a new Ministry Resolution be adopted broadening the *ratione personae* of the competent Ministry's previous one (48566), which will provide for:

(a) the issuing of a health booklet or a "non-insured person's" booklet (as the case may be), when the non-nationality certificate is issued, for non-nationals (members of the minority of Thrace) who do not opt for the process of naturalisation and those regaining Greek nationality through it;

(b) free medical care and hospitalisation, to aliens who do not have asylum seeker's identity card (their application being at the first stage of registration), though providing evidence of their application for asylum,

(c) other specific categories of migrants, and

(d) specific categories of nationals and non-nationals suffering from infectious diseases. It should be noted that only those recognised refugees desiring a “non-insured person’s” health booklet should be granted one, given that they have the same rights as Greek citizens.

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