

AARHUS CONVENTION NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT OF GREECE (2013)

I. PROCESS BY WHICH THIS REPORT HAS BEEN PREPARED

1. The Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MoEECC) has been established in 2009 following the Decision of the Prime Minister N. 2876 on October 7th 2009 replacing existing Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works in order to achieve the protection of the natural environment and resources, the improvement of quality of life, the mitigation and adjustment to the implications of climate change and the enhancement of mechanisms and institutions for environmental governance. Among Ministry's key priorities are the improvement of energy efficiency, the promotion of green products, the sustainable production and the consumption patterns, the protection and promotion of Biodiversity and the natural landscape, the effective management of water resources and forests, the sustainable management of mineral resources, the prevention of environmental crises and the effective risk management, the improvement of air quality and sounds cape, the promotion of accessibility and sustainable mobility for all, the promotion of sustainable regional planning and urban development, the efficient waste management and the promotion of recycling, the promotion of environmental research, innovative technologies and accessibility to environmental information according to the Principles of International Environmental Law

2. Regarding the process by which this report has been prepared, the MoEECC, has invited the following Public Authorities for consultation and contribution to the preparation of the present report: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Administrative Reform and e-Governance, Ministry of Education, and Religious Affairs, Ministry of Development and Competitiveness, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights, Ministry of Rural Development and Food, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Aegean, , Ministry of Infrastructure ,Transport and Networks, Ministry of Culture and Sports, Hellenic Food Authority (EFET), General Chemical State Laboratory and Hellenic Ombudsman. Additionally the following departments of the MoEECC, the Regional Administration of Greece, Competent Bodies and NGOs have also been invited for contribution and comments to this report: Department of International Relations and EU Affairs, Special Service for the Environment, Environmental Planning Directorate, Bureau of National Network for Environmental Information , Air Pollution and Noise control Directorate, Special Secretariat for Water (former Central Water Service), Special Management Service of the Operational Programme "Environment and Sustainable Development"(EPPER), Spatial Planning Directorate, Special Coordination Unit of Environmental Action, Urban Planning Directorate , Special Projects Upgrading areas Directorate, Inspection Secretariat of Environment and Energy, Directorate General for Energy, Special Secretariat for Forests, Directorate General of Development , Directorate General for Protection of Forests and Natural Environment, the National Centre of Environment and Sustainable Development, as well as (7) Decentralized Administrations of Greece, including their local authorities Additionally, the environmental NGOs have been invited to contribute their views to the drafting of this report.

3. This report has been based on the report from the previous reporting cycle and has been updated with new information. The above participation included a consultation period of approximately 8 weeks before the first draft is displayed on the Internet (by e-mail, regular mail and where necessary, with clarification meetings and discussions). After the completion of the first draft, it was displayed for public consultation on the official website of MoEECC for two weeks. The remarks were incorporated in the final version of the report. This is the third report of Greece.

II. PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES RELEVANT FOR UNDERSTANDING THE REPORT

4. According to Article 101 of the Constitution, the administration of the State is organized in accordance with the principle of decentralization. According to Article 102 of the Constitution, the administration of local affairs shall be exercised by local government agencies while the State shall supervise local government agencies, without infringing upon their initiative and freedom of action. The most recent administrative organization that came into force in 2011 is the “Kallikratis” Law (Law 3852/2010, OJG A’ 87). By “Kallikratis”, the former system of 13 regions, 54 prefectures and 1033 municipalities and communities was replaced by 7 decentralized administrations, 13 regions and 325 municipalities. Specifically, according to the aforementioned law the administrative divisions of Greece are the following: Municipalities (in Greek Dimoi) constitute the first level of government. The Municipalities are subdivided into the municipal units (Dimotikes enotites) and further the municipal units are subdivided into communities (koinotites). Regions constitute the second level of government which are divided into regional units (Perifereiakes enotites). Finally, the third level consists of decentralised administrations (Apokentromenes dioikiseis)

5. The generally recognized rules of international law, as well as international treaties including convention and protocols according to Article 28 of the Constitution require ratification by a national law voted by the Parliament in order to entry into force, thus are not applied directly without becoming an integral part of domestic Greek law.

6. Greece ratified the Aarhus Convention at the end of 2005 and thus became a Contracting Party (see art. 3). For the purpose of a better understanding of this report, it should be noted that the implementation of the Convention in Greece is generally based on EU Directives, which have already been transposed into national law (see art. 3).

III. LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND OTHER MEASURES IMPLEMENTING THE GENERAL PROVISIONS IN PARAGRAPHS 2, 3, 4, 7 AND 8 OF ARTICLE 3

Article 3, paragraph 2

7. In Greece, there is an integrated legal framework regulating access to information in general and specifically environmental information in order to ensure that officials and authorities provide to citizens the required information and guidance.

8. The Convention was ratified by the Greek Parliament in December 2005 through Law 3422/12-12-2005 (Official Journal of the Government (OJG) A 303 /2005).

9. According to article 3, paragraph 9 (a), of Joint Ministerial Decision (JMD) 11764/653/2006 (OJG 327B/17-3-2006) by which the Directive 2003/4/EC on public access to environmental information was transposed, officials are required to support the public in seeking access to information. The 2003/4/EC Directive was formulated by the European Commission (EC) for the better implementation of the first pillar of the Convention by the EU Member States. According to Article 3, paragraph 1, of the above-mentioned JMD, public authorities make available environmental information held by or for them to any applicant at his request within the deadlines set by law. According to the majority of reports received by central and regional authorities officials are generally familiar with the right to environmental information and support the public in seeking access to it.

10. In Greece, the right of access to information is not limited only to environmental issues. According to “Administrative Procedure Code” (Law N. 2690/1999(A 45)) any interested party is entitled, by written application, to be informed of administrative documents. Administrative documents are documents drawn up by public services, such as reports, studies, minutes, statistical data, circulars, replies of the Administration, opinions

and resolutions. Furthermore, any person having special legal interest is entitled, by written application, to be informed of private documents kept in public services that are related to his/her case pending before them or handled by them. The right of access to information is not applicable in cases when the document concerns the private or family life of a third party or if there is violation of confidentiality stipulated by special provisions. The competent administrative authority may refuse to satisfy this right if the document refers to the discussions of the Cabinet of Ministers or if the satisfaction of this right may substantially obstruct the investigation of judicial, police or military authorities concerning the commission of a crime or an administrative violation. The refusal of the-right should be justified and notified in writing to the applicant within one (1) month after the submission of the application. Lists of public Authorities are publicly accessible in the Citizens Service Centers (CSCs) as well as in the CSCs' Web site. Citizens Service Centres (CSCs) have been established by the Ministry of Administrative Reform and e-Governance in regions, and local authorities all over Greece by Law 3013/2002. CSCs are effectively assisting the citizens in dealing with public administration, and in accessing information and documents. . The CSC website has been designed and developed for efficient electronic information and service for citizens, where a "Guide for the Citizen" is displayed. In addition, it offers the option to submit comments and electronic applications regarding a large number of administrative documents, thus implementing a substantial step towards e- governance in Greece. The Citizen Service Call Centre (1500) is also an important step towards citizens' information. To that end the Ministry of Administrative Reform and e- Governance proceeded to the publication of the e- newspaper "journalists", which promotes information to citizens on key issues of Public Administration. It is posted in the national portal "Hermes" and in the site of the Ministry.

11. A Citizens' Service Centre operates within the (MoEECC informing citizens about the competent departments of the Ministry, the required information that is available and if possible, bringing them in contact with the competent officials. A Citizen's Service Centre and /or a Public Relations Department operate also in other Ministries to assist citizens in dealing with public administration. A Press Department operates in every ministry, responsible for publishing press releases and thus informing about the ministry's activities

12. A special help desk, which consists of officers especially appointed for public information and assistance on relevant issues, has been established by the Managing Unit of the Operational Programme Environment and Sustainable Development (EPPERAA) under the MoEECC . Access to environmental information concerning the priorities and activities of this operational Programme can also be acquired through the respective website (www.epper.gr) constantly updated. Representatives of environmental NGOs participate in the Steering Committee of EPPERAA. Environmental information is also accessed through the Ministry's official website (www.ypeka.gr), redesigned recently and continuously updated. Environmental information of other ministries is accessed through their official websites.

In the MoEECC as well as in regional administration, almost every competent official is required to inform the public on the issues of his responsibility. The public may ask for copies of the documents or may study the documents personally.(See below under art. 5, para. 1).

13. The majority of authorities reported that their officers answer citizen's or NGOs requests regarding environmental information by telephone or in person on a daily basis. In some cases telephone communication and/ or the personal data is recorded to be answered in due time.

14. The Independent Coordination Office for the Implementation of Environmental Liability (SYGAPEZ), established by Presidential Decree 148/2009 on environmental liability (harmonization to the Directive 2004/35/CE of the European Parliament and the EU Council

on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage) accepts and investigates complaints related to environmental incidents and damages. SYGAPEZ is now elaborating on a draft ministerial decision regarding the access to information right and the public participation to the thematic issues that has the responsibility.

15. Many Management Bodies of Specially Protected Areas pointed out that in addition to answering to the questions of interested citizens, they organize workshops that provide students of primary, secondary and university education as well as the civil society with core environmental principles and the opportunity to be informed about the environmental state of play aiming at the public awareness and the promotion of environmental behavior.

16. The Special Coordination Directorate of Environmental Actions (EYSPED) was established by Law 3617/2007 (OJG 267) in order to ensure the compatibility of environmental intervention (co- financed by the EU or by national resources) with the EU and national priorities as well as the legal framework. The JMD 19883/2008 (OJG B' 1957) amended by JMD 15078/2012 (OJG B' 980) regulates the functioning of this Special Directorate that aims to collecting and disseminating environmental information to the public as far as projects and actions are concerned, as well as the support of the MoECC on public consultation on issues that belong to its competence. Finally, a National Environmental Net was established by the JMD 135259/2012

Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4

17. In the framework of actions for environmental education (EE) and education for sustainable development (ESD), Greece is participating to the UNECE and UNESCO processes at a satisfactory level. Within these processes:

Greece has been working in depth in promoting activities implementing the three priority areas as decided at the 7th Meeting of the Steering Committee on ESD, namely (a) to ensure that there is an education for sustainable development school plan in every school by 2015; (b) to promote the introduction of ESD into teacher education; and (c) to reorient technical and vocational education and training in support of sustainable development and the transition to a green economy; through decisions and circulars, in line with the endorsed work plan for the 3rd phase of the implementation of the Strategy.

18. Greece is also participating in the Bureau of the ESD Steering Committee, supporting, inter alia, the strengthening of the cooperation and synergies with other bodies starting to be involved in ESD issues, like the Union for the Mediterranean.

19. A National Commission for ESD has been set up with the participation of NGOs as well as museums, etc.; A National Coordination Commission of actions on education for sustainable development was established in 2011, consisting of officers from competent departments of Ministries, the Hellenic Commission of UNESCO, academics and experts;

20. The Ministry of Education has set up a Programme of action for the United Nations Decade of ESD (2005-2014), identifying focus issues for each year and has invited NGOs to participate in the implementation of the Programme;

21.

The Special Secretariat of Water of the MoEECC (former Central Water Agency) ,that has been established for the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, is undertaking the following support actions:

- a) Establishment and operation of a related website;
- b) Translation of the Water Framework Directive guidance documents;
- c) Education of the competent authorities' personnel, public information and awareness (ongoing);

22. With the support of the Ministry of Education's Operational Programme (EPEAEK, funded by the Community Structural Funds, the Cohesion Fund and national funds) and in coordination with the MoEECC, projects have been approved which focus on enhancing awareness, education, training and participation in decision-making bodies of protected areas. NGOs are running these projects and local civil society and administrative bodies are the key target group.
23. In the context of the Decade of ESD, 19,000 Programmes of environmental education and 18,000 Programmes of health education took place in secondary education; During the period 2009-2012 the following projects were completed: primary education: 20.500 projects on Environmental education, 22.000 on Health Care, secondary education: 21.000 on environmental education and 19.000 on Health Care.
24. There are 35 national thematic networks, each one in 120 schools. Subjects coincide with all ESD activities;
25. The training of 29.650 educators is in process.
Periodical materials on sustainable development are being produced by Centres of Environmental Education (CEE);
26. All academic years in the period 2005-2014 are denoted according to sustainability principles in the framework of the Decade of ESD;
27. In 2011-2012, according to the Ministerial Decisions which define the Curricula for the first and the second class of Senior High School, in the framework of the new subject so called "Project", students are asked to work in groups on "Environment and Sustainable Development" one of the proposed study areas.
28. In Vocational Senior High Schools, it was introduced as a distinct subject of the curricula for the 1st class. In Vocational Senior High Schools, from 2012-2013 the "Special Thematic Activity" was introduced as an optional subject of the curricula for the second class of the daily school and the 3rd class of evening school.
29. The 46 Centers for Environmental Education and Sustainability are entities of the Ministry of Education, under the Regional Directorates of Education all over the country. The projects these Centers are running, aim at training teachers in order to implement projects related to ESD in their schools. During 2011/2012 school year 184 seminars for 8745 teachers of primary and secondary education took place.
30. 8.000 Programmes of school awareness activities per year are being conducted;
31. The schools participating in UNESCO Associated Schools Project" (ASP) continue to elaborate projects related to ESD thematic guidelines through a holistic approach making use of the educational material produced by UNESCO (on line course, games etc).
32. In the framework of cooperation between governmental departments, the General Secretariat for Culture coordinates the implementation of educational projects in archeological sites, museums and monuments.
33. The project "Green Cultural Routes", pivotally realized in May 2012, continues to be implemented in 2013. It is running the 2nd pilot phase and has been expanded to six more districts with the participation of many students. During the project educational material was produced. It is an important endeavor which underlines the contribution of museums to the sustainable management of nature through ESD.
34. The MoEECC supports awareness-raising efforts, giving priority to information, education and training Programme issues;
35. The Special Coordination Directorate of Environmental Actions has organized a workshop on European directives 92/43/EC and 79/409/EC for the members of the Management Bodies of Specially Protected Areas in Strofilia in 2013.
36. The Special Coordination Directorate of Environmental Actions is also responsible for awareness Programmes on Intergraded Management of Marine and Inland waters and to

that direction educational Programmes are being organized for local societies, schools and interested citizens.

37. The Mediterranean Information Office (MIO-ECSDE) has established the Circle of Mediterranean Journalists for Environment and Sustainable Development at the Mediterranean level;

38. The MoEECC supports the Medies Initiative which is a WSSD Type II Initiative on Education for Sustainable Development. Medies aims to facilitate the educational, community to contribute in a systematic and concrete way to the implementation of Agenda 21 and Millennium Development Goals, through the successful application of innovative Educational Projects. To that end, a workshop is being organized annually with the participation of officers from the MoEECC. Among the speakers of the November 2013 workshop was the Aarhus focal point. A competition "AthinaCh4" that falls within the Programme ATHENS ATTICA 2014 for young architects.

39. Development Intervention Programme of the MoEECC for the period 2010 to 2015: Among its four pillars is the Strengthening of mechanisms and institutions of environmental governance through a set of actions. The total investment budget that is included under this pillar is the € 846,7 million and is expected to create more than 2,400 jobs.

40. The Ministry of Environment, has drawn up, in 2010, a "Programme of Development Interventions for the Real Economy" aiming at increasing development investments, reforming the production basis of the economy and reinvigorating economic activity, balancing rural development, creating new jobs and reducing unemployment. Its principles and requirements include investments in education, in knowledge-base expansion, in innovation and in new technologies. The Programme introduces a cross-sectoral approach with four thematic pillars:

- Addressing climate change challenges and transition to a competitive low-carbon economy (e.g. by promoting the penetration of RES, energy saving and energy demand management, increase of energy efficiency etc);
- Sustainable management of natural resources (e.g. integrated management of ecosystems, water and forest resources, risk planning and management, rehabilitation and landscape preservation);
- Improvement of quality of life based on an environmental-friendly approach (e.g. improvement of social and productivity cohesion, revitalizing of rural and degraded urban areas, sustainable mobility, integrated waste management etc);
- Reinforcement of institutional tools and mechanisms for environmental governance (e.g. reinforcement of inspection instruments, improvement of public access to environmental information, education and awareness raising etc).

41. The local port authorities in cooperation with local government, organize or assist existing network of volunteers from environmental organizations, cultural associations, federations, tourist associations, fishermen- scouts clubs, student clubs, etc. who participate in the Voluntary Cleanup of the coasts on a regular basis. Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Aegean Directorate of Marine Environment Protection (DMEP) conducts training seminars for port authorities and regional pollution control plants in protecting the marine environment and new techniques for dealing with marine pollution incidents as well as answering properly to citizen's applications and complaint.

42. Regarding awareness actions a number of Authorities (Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Aegean Directorate of Marine Environment Protection, Ministry of Education, SYGAPEZ, Special Coordination Directorate of Environmental Actions) report that they organize conferences and workshops pursuing the maximum participation of relevant bodies in order to acknowledge their work.

Article 3, paragraph 4

43. In Greece, the public and the NGOs can submit comments and proposals on environmental issues at the preliminary stages of the decision-making process as well as during the public consultation processes, NGOs are officially registered and recognized as partners in various ministries. In Greece, there is not one single entity responsible for registering and inventorying NGOs active both on general as well as on environmental matters. Apart from the above inventory, registries are also kept by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for different purposes. In addition, MoEECC has also inventoried the environmental NGOs which it has funded over the years, either with core funding or for the implementation of specific projects following a certain call. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the other hand, and in particular its Service for the Implementation of the Development Assistance and Cooperation Programme of Greece (the so-called Hellenic Aid Service) has been inventorying (since 2000) NGOs active in all fields (e.g. medicine, humanitarian, environment, education) that fulfill certain "quality" criteria and are thus eligible to receive State funding to implement, as intermediaries, development aid and cooperation projects in third/developing/recipient countries.

44. According to the legislation for the protection and sustainable management of water resources in Greece (Law 3199/2003, art. 3, para. 6, and art. 6), which integrates the public participation requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the active involvement of interested parties is ensured through their representation to the National and Regional (in the 13 Regional Water Districts) Water Councils that are being developed as part of the administrative framework of the country. The National and the 13 Regional Water Councils are advisory boards in which all national and regional interested groups are represented, such as the involved organizations, NGOs, etc.

45. According to Laws 1650/86 and 2742/99, (27) Management Bodies were established in protected areas of Greece. Some of them were merged or abolished by Law 4109/2013 (OJG A 16) so their number reduced to (13). The Administrative Councils of these bodies are composed by representatives of central, regional and local authorities, representatives of local stakeholders groups, researchers and NGOs. Management Bodies are supported by the Third Community Support Framework and national funds. Moreover, the Natura 2000 Committee (provided under Law 2742/1999) consists of representatives from ministries, universities and NGOs.

46. Development of National Rural Network (NRN), within the Rural Development Programme for the 2017-2013 period (RDP), which aims at exchanging information and networking between agencies dealing with rural development and includes as members Chambers, Research Institutes, Environmental Organizations, Leader Local Groups etc. Members of the Network are also agencies of the Ministry for Agricultural Development and Food and the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climatic Change, which are responsible of the management and implementation of some measures of the RDP.

Article 3, paragraph 7

47. Greece promotes the Convention's principles of transparency, access to information and public participation in international forums, international environmental negotiations and decision-making processes. The MoEECC as well as other ministries invite NGO representatives to participate as experts in international meetings. NGOs can also participate, upon invitation, in national preparatory meetings for international meetings.

48. Greece, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs supports, coordinates and assists NGOs and other agencies in the implementation of development Programmes, in accordance with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, with the focus on combating poverty. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through YDAS-2 (Rehabilitation and Development Directorate), handles Greece's relations with the OECD Development Assistance Committee, participating in its working groups and networks as well as in the Ministerial Councils

49. Greece has been the lead country of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI), which since 2002 has served as a platform for promoting strategic partnerships between the EU and the Mediterranean countries as well as between government, civil society and the private sector. One key recent development is the initiation of the "Country Policy Dialogues" on water for Mediterranean non-EU partner countries.

50. Greece participated actively in the Conferences or Meetings of Parties of Conventions / protocols to which is contracted party, including the Rio + 20 Conference.

51. Greece participates in the following projects:

a) The Project of Associated Schools; in cooperation with the lead agency, UNESCO: Programmes have been implemented within the framework of the Decade of ESD by 20 of the 80 schools participating in the network

b) The South-Eastern Mediterranean Environmental Project (SEMPEP), a network of 40 schools. It began as Programme of environmental education.

52. The Marine Environment Protection Directorate provides constant information to the institutions of the Greek shipping industry and other specialized institutions, shipping center operators eg ELKETHE about international forums and meetings for the environment to give them the possibility to participate.

53. The Special Coordination Directorate of Environmental Actions (EYSPED) is the instrument for the implementation of the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area (EEA). In that content Greece has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Norway, Island and Lichtenstein on Integrated Management of Marine and inland waters. EYSPED has outlined a plan to that end after broad public consultation, as provided by the EU Regulation for the implementation of the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism.

Article 3, paragraph 8

54. There is an integrated legal framework in Greece, as already mentioned, ensuring the exercise of the rights of the persons under the Convention. The right of access to information is provided and guaranteed by the Constitution as well as by the Administrative Procedure Code.

55.

According to Article 4 of the Constitution all Greek citizens are equal before the law. Citizens have also the constitutional right of previous hearing. Articles 4 to 25 of the Constitution provide for the protection of human rights, including the free development of one's personality, the participation in the social, economic and political life of the country and the recognition of the value of human dignity;

56. Every act of the State must be in conformity with the law and must also be provided for by a law.

57.

The citizens, in the framework of their protection, have several possibilities for administrative and judicial review as well as actions for compensation according to the civil liability provisions (see art. 9).

58. The Ministry of Administrative Reform and e-Governance has issued the "Guide of Good Administrative Behavior" and the "Rights of citizens and enterprises in their transactions with public services", seeking to inform the public about its rights, available at the website of the Ministry.

IV. OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 3

59. The obstacles and problems identified and stated by the involved public authorities are:

- Little (insufficient) financial support in the framework of environmental education;
- Lack of cooperation between authorities or even departments of the same authority constitutes a significant obstacle to the full implementation of the provisions of the Aarhus Convention in general.) that is a major task demanding the collaboration of several ministries and sectors as well as the Decentralized Administration and local government;
- Lack of sufficient resources due to the current financial situation;
- Reluctance of authorities: according to the opinion of the Greek Ombudsman the authorities are still reluctant to permit access to all environmental information, although national legislation is specific on that, and remarks that there is room for improvement on the culture of civil servants.
- Administration in transition: The Greek government is in the process of reforming the structure of public administration to render it more efficient, effective and provide better quality services to citizens, In the framework of this reform the new organization chart, under preparation for the Ministry of Environment aims at improving the horizontal coordination at the central level, optimizing human resources management, promoting administrative efficacy and decentralization of responsibilities, modernization, rationalization and adaption to international and EU standards.
- Delays on the administrative procedures due to understaffing of several departments of central and regional administration, or/and lack of certain specification of civil servants especially when cooperation among a number of departments is necessary.

V. FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE GENERAL PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 3

VI. WEBSITE ADDRESSES RELEVANT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 3

<http://www.ypeka.gr>,
<http://www.mfa.gr>,
<http://www.yen.gr>,
<http://www.ypepth.gr>,
www.remth.gr,
<http://www.medies.net>,
www.epperaa.gr,

<http://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/index.php?obj=4c177c316a3ccb>,
<http://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/index.php?obj=4c1776c316a3cch>,
[http://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/index.php?obj=f37198c7cdaff10d\(INFODESK\)](http://www.agrotikianaptixi.gr/index.php?obj=f37198c7cdaff10d(INFODESK)),
www.kalamas-cherontas.gr, fdkal-ach.blogspot.com

VII. LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND OTHER MEASURES IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS ON ACCESS TO ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION IN ARTICLE 4

Relevant definitions

60. Concerning relevant definitions in article 2 and the non discrimination requirement in article 3, see information under article 5 of the Convention. No particular difficulties concerning the definitions in article 2 and the interpretation of the definition "environmental information" were met. Limited difficulties identified in some cases concerning the exceptions and in particular the identification of confidentiality of industrial information. A legal opinion of the State Council (no 135/2010) addressed this issue and concluded positively towards issuing copies.

Article 4, paragraph 1

61. According to Law 3422/12-12-2005 (OJG A 303/2005), public authorities, in response to a request of environmental information, make such information available to the public including, where requested, copies of the actual documentation containing such information. Article 7 of the JMD 11764/653/2006 also stipulates that public authorities provide copies of the actual documentation upon request and some exceptions are provided concerning the form or format of the required information (see under art.4 para 1 (b)). Art. 5 of the Administrative Procedure Code (OJG A45/9-3-1999), referring to access to documents, provides and regulates similar issues.

Article 4, paragraph 1 (a)

62. In Greece, access to environmental information of any person without having to state an interest, is provided first of all under law 3422/12-12-2005 (OJG A 303/2005). It is also ensured in article 3, paragraph 1 of JMD 11764/653/2006 (OJG B 327/17-3-2006). According to this article of the above JMD, every natural or legal person can access environmental information by submitting a relevant written request without having to state an interest. The written request enters the public authority's register (protocol) under a certain number and a registration receipt is given to the applicant.

63. Public Authorities, in their majority, make available environmental information held by or for them to any applicant at his request. However due to lack of staff and work overload the deadlines set by law are not always met. The main obstacle that is reported is lack of human and other resources (staff and funding). If a request is formulated in a too general manner, the public authority asks from the applicant to specify the request, assisting him.

64. If the information requested is not held by the public authority to which the request is addressed, the public authority transfers the request to the competent authority usually, but not always, within 3 days, due to limited human resources, and informs the applicant accordingly.

65. According to the Constitution (Article 10), the competent authority is obliged to reply to requests for information and to issue documents (see art. 3). According to article 5, paragraph 1 of Law 2690/1999 regarding the Administrative Procedure Code, every

interested person is entitled to access to administrative documents by submitting a relevant request. A special interest is required only for access to private documents held by public authorities, on matters concerning the applicant (art. 5, para. 2, of Law 2690/1999). Finally, Directive 2003/98/EC on the re-use of public sector information has been incorporated into the Greek legislation by law 3448/2006.

Article 4, paragraph 1 (b).

66. Taking into account those referred in the above point (under art. 4, para. 1) and according to article 4, paragraph. 1 (b), subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of the Convention, ratified by law 3422/2005 and article 3, paragraph 7 of the JMD 11764/653/2006, the form or format of the information is supplied as follows: where an applicant requests a public authority to make environmental information available in a specific form or format (including in the form of copies), the public authority makes it available unless it is already publicly available in another form or format which is easily accessible to the applicants. Further details on the above issue are regulated under the above JMD (art. 3, para. 7).

Article 4, paragraph 2

Legislation and Information provided under this Article remain the same as it is in the Report of the previous reporting cycle.

Article 4, paragraphs 3 and 4

Legislation and Information provided under this Article remain the same as it is in the Report of the previous reporting cycle.

Article 4, paragraph 5

Legislation and Information provided under this Article remain the same as it is in the Report of the previous reporting cycle.

Article 4, paragraph 6

Legislation and Information provided under this Article remain the same as it is in the Report of the previous reporting cycle.

Article 4, paragraph 7

Legislation and Information provided under this Article, remain the same as it is in the Report of the previous reporting cycle

Article 4, paragraph 8

Legislation and Information provided under this Article, remain the same as it is in the Report of the previous reporting cycle

VIII. OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 4

67. The obstacles and problems identified by the involved public authorities are:

a) Lack of resources (staff, funds for copies etc.):

- b) Administrative burden due to lack of staff and because in some cases request is general or unreasonable and officials ask and assist the applicant to specify the request or submit documentation with more details;
- c) Delays due to the complexity of the requested information, requiring time consuming collaboration with other authorities
- d) Limited difficulties, concerning the interpretation and management of the definition "environmental information"
- e) Not systematically kept records by some authorities
- f) Lack of material and technical infrastructure (lack of storage for studies, lack of computers and related programmes for creating databases), lack of electronic filing, increased volume of work and documents for distribution (at prefecture level there is a requirement for conducting environmental audits), lack of communication between the Ministry and Regional Services, lack of staff training (reported by some prefecture authorities)
- g) Lack of suitable infrastructure of the services and as a consequence difficult public access to environmental data. (according to the Ombudsman)
- h) Lack of experience of civil servants on environmental matters: According the opinion of one NGO the more experienced is the civil servant on environmental matters the more complete is the response. More difficulties are encountered in local authorities (municipalities) However, it is generally reported that environmental services are relatively well-acquainted with the Aarhus Convention, although delays occur.
- i) Distance of the competent authority from the place of residence of the citizen, (in case no database is available and the citizen has to travel on his own expense to the seat of the county).
- j) No interoperability between data bases.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 4

68. The Ministry of Rural Development and Food reports that when public health is threatened regarding fishery products all regional authorities are immediately informed.

69. The Hellenic Environmental Inspectorate is responsible to undertake inspections in order to monitor compliance with the environmental permits for projects of the private and public sectors. The results of the inspections and periodical reports are available on the site of MoECC. The inspectors answer on a daily basis to written and oral request of the citizens. Requests were rejected during the last three years in written, only when they fell within the exceptions of art 4 of the Convention. .

70. Upon application, the Special Environmental Service and the other competent departments provide in due time the information requested concerning official documents or other documentation concerning the files on environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic impact assessment (SEA) submitted to it, as soon as the public participation process has begun. No internal consultation document concerning open judicial procedures is provided.

71. Law 3937/2011 (OGJ A' 60/2011) on maintaining biodiversity provides for the creation of a specific web site of the MoEECC where all information on Specially Protected Areas must be published.

72. The Environmental Directorate of the Decentralized Administration of Sterea and Thessalia reports that they have developed their own data basis with environmental information in order to facilitate their every day work and at the same time to be able to answer to interested citizens.

73. According to the comments of a small number of citizens at the stage of public consultation, the fact that the compliance report of the Aarhus Convention was up to now published only in English, as well as several other reports containing environmental information, is an obstacle to free access of the public to environmental information. Additionally, two protests were reported against the unwillingness of authorities to grant the requested environmental information in digital form and through internet, referring to copyright protection of the researchers.

IX. WEBSITE ADDRESSES RELEVANT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 4

- <http://et.diavgeia.gov.gr>
- www.minagric.gr
- www.ypeka.gr
- www.ggb.gr
- www.agrotikianaptixi.gr
- www.apdhthest.gov.gr

XI. LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND OTHER MEASURES IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS ON THE COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION IN ARTICLE 5

74. Law 3422/2005 provides for collection and dissemination of environmental information. In addition, article 7 of JMD 11764/653/2006 (OJG B 327/17-3-2006), which transposed Directive 2003/4/EC, also regulates the dissemination of environmental information through electronic databases and public telecommunication networks.

75. The relevant definitions in article 2 and the non-discrimination requirement in article 3 of the Convention are described and met by Law 3422/2005, by which the Convention was ratified. The above article 2 definitions of the Convention are also met in article 2 of JMD 11764/653/2006, which transposed Directive 2003/4/EC.

76. In addition, according to Article 4, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, of Constitution (1975/1986/2001), all Greeks are equal before the law. Greek men and women have equal rights and equal obligations. All persons possessing the qualifications for citizenship as specified by law are Greek citizens. Article 5 (a) paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Constitution also state that all persons are entitled to information, as specified by law and all persons are entitled to participate in the Information Society. In addition, Law 3304/2005 on the "implementing of the principle of equal treatment regardless of racial or ethnic origin, religious or other beliefs, disability, age or sexual orientation" constitutes a landmark in the promotion of the principle of equality and the protection of human rights in Greece. By this law, two EU Directives were transposed into the Greek legislation: EC Directives 2000/78 and 2000/43 "for the promotion of the principle of equal treatment and the fight against discrimination on grounds of race, nationality, religion or belief, disability, age, sexual orientation".

77. There are also two bodies in Greece with similar responsibilities both assigned with combating discrimination in the private sector: the Labor Inspectorate (SEPE), whose competence covers ordinary employment contracts and the Equal Treatment Committee of the Ministry of Justice (Law 3304/2006, OJG A' 16) whose competence covers the rest of the private and public sector. The General Secretariat for Equality of the Ministry of Interior also plays an important role in the implementation of the principle of equal treatment and the gender equality. At the same time, a Permanent Committee on Equality and on Human Rights as well as a Permanent Committee on Institutions and on Transparency operates in the Greek Parliament.

Article 5, paragraph 1 (a)

78. The MoEECC contributes regularly to the EIONET (European environment information and observation network) Priority Data Flows. The Ministry of Environment also cooperates closely with the Hellenic Statistical Authority on environmental monitoring data, which collaborates with Eurostat and the European Commission, as well as with the National Statistical Institutes of other EU Member States.

79. The Ministry of Environment also ensures collection and update of environmental data through:

1. Air-quality monitoring
2. Water quality, water quantity and ecological status monitoring
3. Air emissions monitoring (main industrial installations emissions)
4. Combustion and fuel monitoring Programmes
5. Inventory of local and waste management authorities reporting on waste quantities, treatment and management
6. Noise monitoring
7. Environmental inspectorate monitoring
8. Air emissions trade registry
9. Ozone Depleting Substances

The information is available on MoEECC's official site.

Article 5, paragraph 1 (b)

80. The National Centre for Sustainable Development under the Ministry of Environment is responsible for the elaboration of SoE reports (last report published in 2009). Greece also contributes to the preparation of the State of the Environment Report of the European Environment Agency (EEA), published every 5 years (last report published in 2010).

81. The National Environmental Information Network is a horizontal mechanism for the collection and dissemination of data, through the Internet or an intranet, in relation to the main environmental sectors (air, water, nature, waste, emissions and legislation). It comprises a national repository of environmental data and a mechanism for exchanging data between relevant environmental administrative services as well as for providing data to the public.

82. The project for the modernization and extension of the network is completed. The system is now Web based involving more environmental organizations as active users and more external interested people and organizations as viewers. A big part of the data of the system is available to the public. It also includes spatial data and services providing support for responding with environmental data to the INSPIRE Directive. The content of the System concerns the main environmental topic areas where the MoEECC collects data (air, water, natural environment, wastes, combustion, fuels, industry, noise, environmental impact assessment studies and areas like waste recycling, Ozone Depleting Substances, Physical Planning, etc.). A new functionality has been added based on INTERNET technologies to facilitate and encourage electronic submission of Environmental Impact Assessment studies which will also provide more visibility on this area. The system also includes functionalities for supporting national EIONET communication as well as for operating the Clearing House Mechanism for the Aarhus Convention.

83. Environmental data is collected and processed in compliance with the EU legislation and in accordance with the environmental reporting obligations and specifications of EEA and Eurostat

Article 5, paragraph 1 (c)

84. In case of an air pollution episode, information will be disseminated on an hourly basis through the Internet, radio and TV messages, and implementation of relevant measures (directions to people affected etc).

85. Flood protection and prevention: According to Law on water (3199/2003), transposition into national law of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the Regional Water Directories are the competent authorities for taking the appropriate measures for flood mitigation on a river basin basis.

86. Forecasting and early warning: this issue is handled in Greece by several operational centres. Comprehensive activities and plans that have been undertaken in the field of early warning and forecasting include:

- (a) Traditional measuring instruments, radar and numerical weather forecasts;
- (b) Identification and mapping of high-risk areas through the National Bank of Hydrological and Meteorological Information, a data bank in which all the hydrological and meteorological data measured during the last 100 years have been collected and elaborated, using the most up-to-date computer science and telecommunications;
- (c) Development of an effective and reliable early-warning and forecasting system, supported by meteorological information, to inform, at the respective level, flood authorities and citizens in threatened areas;
- (d) A national emergency plan for civil protection (XENOKRATIS), covering the emergency management before, during and after the flood events.
- (e) Measures linked to public information and awareness-raising: information for the general public through the media (TV, leaflets, posters, the Internet, etc.) on possible flooding events because of forecasted heavy rains and thunderstorms and on self-protection instructions.
- (f) In cases endangering the health of the general public relating to fishery products for which the Competent Authority is aware, then subsequently informed in writing all competent Prefecture Fisheries Services, Veterinary Medicine and Public Health Services as well as the fishing operators in the region.
- (g) Monitoring and protection of bathing waters and the marine environment.

Article 5, paragraph 2

87. Concerning air quality in the city of Athens, an online system is regularly providing information on the measurement values of a series of pollutants, as well as on pollutants exceeding basic standards and potential announced measures.

88. Public information is distributed in the following ways:

- a) By fixed phone message
- b) Through the Internet (www.ypeka.gr) in Greek and English on daily basis:
- c) Analytical description of the air quality situation, max and average, pollutant values for the present day and the previous one;
- d) Extended presentation of ozone excess;
- e) 3-monthly and yearly reports.

Article 5, paragraph 3

89. On the above environmental areas, MoEECC has established relevant databases with data from the respective monitoring systems and registers as well as information on relevant activities, plans, measures, institutional structure etc. Part of the above is being displayed on the MoEECC website. The final objective is to gradually include all necessary data and information.

(a) National Environmental Information Network: It is a national repository of environmental data and a mechanism for exchanging data between relevant environmental administrative services as well as for providing data to the public;

(b) National Data Bank of Hydrological and Meteorological Information: (www.hydroscope.gr) :It is a distributed database and a wide area network for exchanging and disseminating hydrological and meteorological information produced by relevant organizations belonging to the network. The bank includes data measured during the last 100 years that have been collected and elaborated, using the most updated computer science and telecommunications. A new project is on going today under the EC Cohesion Funds which will upgrade and update the database with more recent information and relevant analysis and assessments. The system also provides information to the Internet;

(c) Communication tools used to convey environmental information to a non expert audience and to high level decision makers (e.g. Web-based tools, user-friendly brochures, aggregated indices, etc.);

(d) Specific website, in the framework of the implementation of alternative management of packaging and other waste (Law 2939/2001), linked directly with the Internet homepage of MoEECC, provides environmental information in respect to alternative management (recovery and recycling) of packaging waste, emissions limit values(ELVs), used tires, waste oil, waste electrical and electronic equipment(WEEE), batteries and accumulators, and construction and demolition waste;

(e) Aarhus Clearinghouse Mechanism, in the framework of the implementation of the National Environmental Information Network ;

(f) Participation to the European Environment Agency's (EEA) ozone-related website, with data from Athens City;

(f) Electronic tool to facilitate the application of the European Waste Catalogue. The tool is accessible on the website of the MoEECC;

(g) Clearing House Mechanism on Biodiversity, bringing together seekers and providers of environmental information and contributing to making environmental information and data flows available to the public;

(h) Within the official site of MoEECC a website is designed by Special Secretariat of Water which serves as an active information and discussion forum in the framework of actions supporting Water Framework Directive implementation. It includes national reports and any other related documentation or information (e.g. data maps.).

(i) The Investor Service for RES projects includes in the register any decision of licensing production electricity from renewable energy issued by the Regulatory Authority for Energy (RAE) after completion of review of such decisions. (Law 3851/2010 (art.2 para 2).

(j)Geodata.gov.gr is an initiative facilitating open access to the Greek government's geospatial data. The website provides users the opportunity to search and download statistical and geographical information.

(k) National Geospatial Information Infrastructure (Law 3882/2010 transposition of Directive 2007/2/EC (Inspire) of the European Parliament and Council of March14, 2007 and other provisions.(OJG A/166/22.09.2010).

(l). MoMAIF is creating an information system (website) that gives details on all applications for permits relating to the introduction of alien or locally absent species in accordance with the Regulation (EC) 535/2008 .(under development)

(m) National Information System for Energy: (NISE)The purpose of NISE of (MoEECC) is to develop infrastructure for energy information services to the public and to create a tool to support decision making on Energy Policy and Planning. The main sections of NISE include: related to energy agencies, legislation, standards. It comprises of: a) A database descriptive information b)A geographic Information System (GIS) and c) A Database Statistical information.

(n) On the official site www.epperaa.gr are published the Operational Programmes EPPER and EPPERAA, (Operational Programme for Environment and Operational Programme for Environment and Sustainable development), annual reports, invitations, notices announcements as well as environmental legislation.

(o)The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, (directorate YDAS-2,) handles Greece's relations with the OECD Development Assistance Committee. It maintains the official statistical database on development assistance provided by Greece and sends detailed statistical data to the Development Assistance Committee, in compliance with the country's obligation. YDAS-2 also draws up the Annual YDAS Report, which is submitted to the Parliament, as well as other publications, such as Greece's Contribution Towards Attaining the Millennium Development Goals.

p) Programme "Diavgeia"(Clarity) enhances transparency through mandatory display on the internet and disclosure of decisions and acts of administration. (Law 3861/2010, OJG 112/13.7.2010 Issue A)

(q)Under construction is a Digital Environmental Registry which will enhance access to environmental information relevant to the environmental licensing.

Article 5, paragraph 4

90. Regular posting on the official site of the MoEECC (www.ypeka.gr) and in Aarhus Clearing House Mechanism of various Reports submitted to E.C. following relevant reporting obligations, on the basis of respective national laws. (EC Directives transposed in the Greek legislation, ratified international environmental Conventions and multilateral agreements). Environmental data in Greece is collected and processed in compliance with EU Legislation on environmental reporting obligations, in relevant formats and with the use of standard and state-of-the-art scientific methods and technical solutions.

91. The Special Secretariat for Forests is keeping updated a legal data basis on Cites Convention (Law 3208/2003, OJG A 303) on the official web page of MoEECC and is organizing seminars and trainings for school students on the creation of a forest friendly spirit.

92. The Department for Hygienic Engineering and Environmental Hygiene of the Ministry of Health reports that a national report is published every three years regarding the quality of drinking water according to direction 98/83/EC that has been incorporated in national law. The above-mentioned data is available in the site of the Ministry (<http://www.moh.gov.gr/articles.newspaper/egyklloi/genikh-dieythynsh-dhmosias-ygeias>).

Article 5, paragraph 5

93. See above under article 5, paragraphs 1 to 4. Article 5, paragraph 6

94. Programmes, inter alia, for the funding of several organizations for EMAS registration and ISO14001 certification as well as for the awarding of the Eco-label are being

implemented under the third CSF. Ministerial Decision 15624/1025/2004 provides for funding for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as does Ministerial Decision 24378/2233/2006 for SMEs as well as industrial and tourist enterprises. In addition, there are no fees for EMAS registration. Under the scheme, all EMAS-registered organizations submit regularly updated environmental statements, including, inter alia, the environmental impact of their activities and products.

95. Until 2009, the register of EMAS verified organizations was growing rapidly in Greece. The number of registered organizations jumped from 1 in January 2001 to 10 in January 2004 and to 69 in June 2009. During the last couple of years the register of EMAS verified organizations has stabilized to 42 organizations with 787 sites, showing a significant decrease (almost 40%) from the 2009 peak registrations. Recent deletions are mainly due to financial constraints of organizations and failure to provide their environmental statements, although most organizations claim to continue informally implementing their environmental management system. The number of EMAS environmental verifiers has also been reduced, due to the limited uptake of EMAS.

96. For the promotion of EMAS in the market, the registration of organisations remains free of charge. Also, EMAS has been incorporated in many priorities and actions of the sectoral Operational Programmes (OP) "Competitiveness-Entrepreneurship" and "Fisheries" of the Ministry of Development and Competitiveness, which, along with the OPs of other Ministries, have been developed to implement Greece's strategic planning for the period 2007-2013, based on the reference document "National Strategic Reference Framework" (NSRF) for the Programme period 2007-2013. In the framework of the above OPs, Programme cycles are launched regularly for the financial support of businesses and organizations to achieve the objectives of specific priority axes, which, inter alia, provide funding for EMAS/ISO14001 implementation (e.g. priority axes "Aquaculture, Processing and Marketing of Fisheries and Aquaculture" and "Sustainable Development of Coastal Fishing Areas" of the OP Fisheries and priority axes "Improvement of the Business Environment" and "Strengthening of Entrepreneurship and Extroversion" of the OP Competitiveness-Entrepreneurship).

97. Recently, Law no. 3982/2011 (OJG A'143/17-06-11), regarding the simplification of the licensing procedure for technical professional and manufacturing activities, and Law no. 4014/2011 (OJG A'209/21/09/11), regarding the simplification of the environmental permitting process of projects and activities have introduced new incentives (financial and regulatory relief) for the uptake of EMAS from manufacturing and related operations. According to this legal framework, the duration of the Environmental Permit is extended by four years in the case of manufacturing units that are EMAS registered and by two years in the case of units that apply ISO 14001 or an equivalent environmental management system and whilst the EMS system is in force. For the manufacturing and related operations that manage hazardous waste and are EMAS registered, the required insurance fee is reduced by 50%. Furthermore, for the activities that are EMAS registered, Law no. 3982/2011 introduces the possibility for reductions in the amount of financial insurance (collateral) related to environmental liability. Such reductions can be determined through joint decisions of the Minister of the Environment, Energy and Climate Change and the Minister of Development and Competitiveness. Law 4014/2011 also foresees the development of an electronic Environmental Information Registry (EIR) in the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, regarding the process of approval, renewal, modification and implementation monitoring of the environmental permits of projects and processes. The national EMAS Competent Body (the Hellenic EMAS Committee) will have access to EIR, through a special electronic license, for the recovery of any relevant environmental information available, facilitating thus the compliance check of EMAS organisations with

legal and regulatory requirements. Law 4014/2011 also stipulates that the Environmental Inspectorate must take into account the implementation of EMAS when scheduling its environmental inspections Programme, with the possibility of less frequent inspections to EMAS registered organisations.

98. Finally, to facilitate public access to environmental information, the EMAS official website is regularly updated and the EMAS register was redesigned in September 2012 to provide additional information for all registered organisations and sites, as well as all the environmental statements available in electronic format of the EMAS registered organisations (even multiple versions for previous years).

99. The European eco label has been awarded to 18 detergent products (2 companies), to 281 paints and varnishes products (22 companies) and 10 hotels. The aforementioned licenses, currently valid, have been issued by the National Competent Body - the Hellenic Council for Ecolabel Awards - ASAOS, which forms an integral part of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change.

100. As far as GGP issues are concerned, Greece is currently finalising the National Action Plan and associated policies on Green Public Procurement. This contains mainly an assessment of the existing situation regarding public procurement in Greece, sets targets for the following years, specifying the measures that will be taken in order to achieve them.

Article 5, paragraph 7

101. Selected data from databases of the above mentioned environmental fields (air quality, air emissions, water quality and quantity, industry, emissions from stationary combustion sources installations and vehicles, fuel, waste, noise) is published on the website of the MoEECC in the section on the National Environmental Information Network (see art. 5, para. 1 (a)).

Article 5, paragraph 8

102. The Cartagena Protocol, which was ratified through Law 3233/2004 (OJG A 51/18-2-2004), provides for a Biosafety Clearing House Mechanism. Actions being taken for the development of a certification of products from sustainable forestry constitute a major challenge (see eco-labeling of products under art. 5, para. 3).

Article 5, paragraph 9

103. Registry of emissions' trading allowances (Greenhouse Gas Emission Allowances)
The National Center for Environment and Sustainable Development (NCESD) supervise by MoEECC in collaboration with the Emissions Trading Office of (MoEECC) established and maintains a register to record the precise issue, holding, transfer and cancellation of the GHG emissions' trading allowances. (JMD 54409/2632/27-12-2004, OJG B 1931, transposition of Directive 2003/87/EC as amended by Directive 2004/101/EC). The registry is accessible to users through: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ets/account.do> and Inventories of GHG Emissions (annual) provide information on emissions of GHG and other gases from energy production and transport, industrial processes, solvent and other products, agriculture, waste and use changes land and forestry. The inventory describes the methods for calculating emissions present activity data and emission factors used and calculate the uncertainty in the estimation of emissions. The annual national inventories submitted each April 15 to the Secretariat of the Convention on Climate Change , cover emissions from 1990 until two years prior to submission. National reports

(communications) are a requirement of our country to the Secretariat of the Convention on Climate Change and submitted at specified intervals specified by the Secretariat of the Convention. Include state policies and measures pursued by individual countries to reduce emissions and actions to raise awareness and education on climate change and the description of adaptation measures.

Emissions Monitoring and Reporting According to JMD 54409/2632/2004, the operator of any facility shall a. monitor greenhouse gas emissions from the installation and b. provide information on emissions of GHG and other gases from energy production and transport, industrial processes, solvent and other products, agriculture, waste and use changes land and forestry. c. submit to Emissions Trading Office an audited report prepared in accordance with the principles of monitoring and reporting requirements.

European Pollutant Emission Register (EPER). In the framework of Directive 96/61/EC concerning integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC), and the European Pollutant Emission Register (EPER), two reports were drafted and rendered in public (Reports EPER 1 and 2) in the years 2004 and 2006 with statistical and inventory data. Most important industries in Greece monitor continuously the main pollutant emissions aiming at enhancing the relevant inventories of the country. The E-PRTR is an extension of the EPER, providing reporting on additional activities and pollutants, and releases pollutants into the ground for waste (hazardous or otherwise) other facilities and releases from diffuse sources. In addition, provides an annual submission of information, as opposed to every three years by under EPER. On 31-3 - each year MoEECC gives releases and waste for about 150 units (facilities) to EC that fall under its obligations according to the Regulation.

XII. OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5

104. Possible problems may occur from:
- (a) Delayed flow of information to the central administration;
 - (b) Delays in rendering of reports and data to the public.
 - (c) Lack of staff.
 - (d) Not systematically kept records by some Authorities

XIII. FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 5

105. In the framework of the Environmental Accounts-Statistics and Sustainable Development Index, a particular estimation system is being established according to the proposed methodology of Eurostat (General Secretariat of National Statistical Service). Within the official web page of the Hellenic Statistical Authority there is a special section on "Environmental Statistics" that is annually updated.

106. The Directorate of Fisheries of Ministry of Rural Development and Food reports that a project on the creation of special WebPages with information on fishing activities is due to be delivered by the end of the year, being part of the broader project "Integrated System of Monitoring and Reporting of Fishing Activities". Additionally, a system on information about fishing permits is under development.

| (a)

Μορφοποιημένο: Κουκκίδες και αριθμηση

XIV. WEBSITE ADDRESSES RELEVANT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 5

www.ypeka.gr - Ministry of Environment Energy and Climate Change (MoEECC)
www.mfa.gr - Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
www.noa.gr - National Observatory of Athens;
<http://www.organismosathinas.gr/> - Organization for Planning and Environmental Protection of Athens;
<http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu> - EIONET;
<http://www.ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel>
www.hydroscope.gr National Data Bank of Hydrological and Meteorological Information:
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ets/account>.
<https://www.vyka.gr>
<http://www.ermis.gov.gr/portal/ermis/newsletter>
<http://www.ydmed.gov.gr>
www.geodata.gov.gr
www.ktimatologio.gr
www.aepo.gr
www.statistics.gr

XV. LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND OTHER MEASURES IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISIONS ON SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES IN ARTICLE 6

Legislation and Information provided under this Article, remain the same as it is in the Report of the previous reporting cycle.

107. Recent Laws 4014/2011 and 4042/2012 considerably contribute to the implementation of the article 6 objectives through the procedural simplification of the environmental permitting process of projects and activities, the criminal protection of the environment and the restructuring of the national system for waste management, giving emphasis to waste minimization, recycling, reduce and reuse in practice.

108. More specifically, Law 4014/2011 (OJG A' 209) aims at accelerating environmental permitting and licensing procedures, decentralizing competencies for environmental licensing, reducing bureaucratic and administrative burdens, enhancing transparency and promoting stakeholder participation in decision making. To this end, the following steps/tools are established:

1. Standardization of the administrative procedure for the approval, renewal or amendment of the decision setting the environmental terms for the operation of activities and projects.
2. Minimization of the number of competent Ministries involved in the permitting procedure.
3. New classification of projects and activities based on their environmental impact and introduction of Standardized Environmental Specifications for the permitting of low-impact installations.
4. Improvement of the administrative structure of environmental licensing services by establishing a single licensing authority at central level under the Ministry of Environment.
5. Introduction of dispute resolution councils dealing with particular cases, both at central/Ministry of Environment level, as well as at regional level.
6. Establishment of a Digital Environmental Registry enhancing public access to environmental information

109.

The implementation progress of Law 4014/2011 is a key priority of the Ministry's policy and therefore is on its official web page updated every day.

XVI. OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6

110. Possible delays may occur during the procedure of making the EIA studies public.

XVII. FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 6

111. No statistical data is available.

112. Through the website 'Open Governance' citizens can be informed on the legislative initiatives of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change and participate in public consultation (see more under article 8). For example in compliance with the JMD 11014/703/2003(OJG 332B/2003), Preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment relating to aquaculture operations are forwarded to the Directorate of Aquaculture and Inland Waters, by the competent Office of MoEECC, for an opinion. These studies are also transmitted by MoEECC, to the concerned Prefecture Councils to inform the citizens and their representative bodies (for the Preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment) and publicizing the case and opinion (for the Environmental Impact Studies).

113. According to the comments of a small number of citizens at the stage of public consultation, the publishing of the environmental assessment reports, not in their final version in some cases, in local newspapers, often of small circulation does not constitute the proper and adequate way of informing the public so that it will be able to take part in the decision making process for environmental matters.

XVIII. WEBSITE ADDRESSES RELEVANT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6

www.ypeka.gr Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change

www.biodiv-chm.gr Site of Clearinghouse Mechanism of Biodiversity in Greece;

www.edpp.gr - National Environmental Information Network;

www.epper.gr - Operational Programme for the Environment;

<http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu> - EIONET

www.unece.org - UNECE:

www.opengov.gr official site for public consultation

XIX. PRACTICAL AND/OR OTHER PROVISIONS MADE FOR THE PUBLIC TO PARTICIPATE DURING THE PREPARATION OF PLANS AND PROGRAMMES RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 7

Legislation and Information provided under this Article remain the same as it is in the Report of the previous reporting cycle.

XX. OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE PREPARATION OF POLICIES RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 7

114. According to article 75 of Law 3852/2010 (OJG A' 87) the Committee for Quality of Life in every Municipality is competent for environmental issues, discussed during sessions open to the public.

115. According to articles 76 and 178 of Law 3852/2010 (OJG A' 87) a Consultation Committee in all Municipalities and Regional Administrations must be established by decisions of the local or regional council, where representatives of the local society, scientific unions, and trade unions take part. Their sessions are open to the public and the outcome is consultative to the local or regional council that takes the decisions on

environmental matters. Apart from the abovementioned committees, online consultation is provided for by Law 3852/2010.

116. One of the main priorities of MoECC for the Programme Period 2014-2020 as far as Guidelines Development Strategy on environmental matters are concerned is the enhancement of institutions and mechanisms of environmental governance (connection between spatial and environmental planning, clarification of competencies on central, regional and local level, awareness and training, enhancement of access to environmental information and participation to the “civil society”).

117. The Special Secretariat for Water of MoECC has conducted extensive public consultation on all draft Water Management Resources Plans, which are available on the its official website.

XXI. OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 7

118. Participatory processes can take a lot of time and money, affecting the timely implementation of the legislative act under public consultation (e.g. possible delays, potential changes in the plans). Another obstacle is limited public ability and willingness to participate as well as in some cases the large amount of irrelevant information/ views.

XXII. FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 7

119. Law 2742/1999 on Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development (art.4) provides for the involvement of non-governmental organizations in environmental decision-making within the National Council for Planning and Sustainable Development and the information of the public on urban planning through the public consultation.

120. Through the website 'Open Governance' citizens can be informed on the legislative initiatives of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change and participate in public consultation (see more under article 8)

XXIII. Website addresses relevant to the implementation of article 7

www.unfccc.int, www.ypeka.gr, www.ypan.gr, www.unece.org.

XXIV. EFFORTS MADE TO PROMOTE EFFECTIVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION DURING THE PREPARATION BY PUBLIC AUTHORITIES OF EXECUTIVE REGULATIONS AND OTHER GENERALLY APPLICABLE LEGALLY BINDING RULES THAT MAY HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE ENVIRONMENT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 8

121. In October 2009, the Greek Open Government Initiative was established in Greece in order to ensure the diffusion of information and to involve all citizens and stakeholders in the decision making mechanism. A website has been created that gives the opportunity for participation on the consultation of draft laws, ministerial decisions etc.

- Opengov.gr has been designed to serve the principles of transparency, deliberation, collaboration and accountability and includes three initiatives:
- Open calls for the recruitment of public administration officials. Top level and mid-level openings in the public sector are available on the Internet. Applications are submitted on-line using a platform available on the opengov.gr website.
- Electronic deliberation. Almost every piece of draft legislation or even policy initiative by the government, are posted in a blog like platform prior to their submission to

parliament. Citizens and organisations can post their comments, suggestions and criticisms article-by-article.

- Labs OpenGov. An open innovation initiative that brings together ideas and proposals from citizens, the public and the private sectors. Labs.OpenGov.gr attempts to release the power of decentralized knowledge and explore new ways to tackle modern public administration problems.

Since October 2009 until October 2013 (361) consultations on draft laws, JMDs, regulations and policy initiatives took place and (99206) comments were received. A consultation report based on all comments is prerequisite for the submission of the draft bill to parliament

122. Law 3861/2010 (OJG A 112) established Programme "Diavgeia"(Clarity) that provides for mandatory display on the internet of administrative acts, thus enhancing transparency of government actions. Since 1991 MD 70000/1380/1991 (B 480) established "Publicity in the acts of MoEECC."

123. A Special Permanent Committee on Environmental Protection and its subcommittee on water resources are established at the onset of each regular session of the Parliament and contribute in the consideration and debating of environmental issues.

124. Some indicative cases of public participation under article 8, apart from the cases stated above under article 6 and 7, are the following:

(a) According to Law 1650/86 for the protection of the environment, for the designation of protected areas, a Specific Environmental Study (SES) is a prerequisite. After its completion, the SES is approved and then, together with the draft legislation text for the designation of the area is available in public. Comments are incorporated and then the legislative text is signed by the competent Ministers;

(b) According to Laws 1650/86 and 2742/99, 27 Management Bodies have been established in protected areas of Greece covering approximately 1.7 million ha. Administrational Councils of these bodies are composed by representatives of central, regional and local authorities, representatives of local stakeholders' groups, researchers and NGOs. Management Bodies are entitled to draft regulations for administration and functioning for their areas.

(c) The new law on biodiversity (3937/2011, OJG A 60) came into force on March 31, 2011 after the completion of public consultation and endorsed a big number of comments.

XXV. OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 8

125. No information was provided under this heading.

XXVI. FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 8

126. No information was provided under this heading.

XXVII. WEBSITE ADDRESSES RELEVANT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 8

www.opengov.gr
<http://et.diavgeia.gov.gr>

XXVIII. LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND OTHER MEASURES IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ARTICLE 9

127. Legislation and Information provided under Article, 9 on access to justice, remain the same as it is in the Report of the previous reporting cycle. As far as fees are concerned in the judicial procedure they increased through the new law that came into force in 2011.

128. Moreover, the right to judicial protection is stipulated on article 20 par. 1 of the Greek Constitution.

129. Furthermore, the Greek Ombudsman is a specialized constitutionally independent administrative authority (founded in October 1998 and operating under the provisions of Law 3094/2003) with, inter alia, environmental responsibilities. The Ombudsman investigates individual administrative actions or omissions of material actions taken by government departments or public services that infringe upon the personal rights or violate the legal interests of individuals or legal entities. The Ombudsman provides its services to the public free of charge and is an option available to citizens prior to their decision to resort to court for resolving their disputes.

XXIX. OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 9

XXX. FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 9

130. The president of the court may at the applicant's request, exempt poor litigants from the duty to pay fees for the submission of an application if it is deemed that the applicant is in poor financial condition. In addition, Law 3226/2004 (OJG A24/2004) provides for legal aid for poor litigants in cases of civil, commercial and criminal law.

131. A small number of quasi-judicial recourses at administration level submitted before the above Special Committee in the Ministry of Interior for the modification or reconsideration of the acts or omissions of a Public Authority regarding public access to environmental information.

132. Hellenic Ombudsman, as reported, has received a numerous public complaints and petitions Concerning denial to access to environmental information.

133. According to the comments of a small number of citizens, received at the stage of public consultation, it is highlighted the fact that access to justice for environmental issues should be possible without the help of a lawyer and with reduced fee.

XXXI. WEBSITE ADDRESSES RELEVANT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 9

www.Ministryofjustice.gr - Ministry of Justice;

www.ste.gr - Council of State;

www.dsa.gr - Athens Bar Association;

www.synigoros.gr - Hellenic Ombudsman

www.ypeka.gr/ eyep - Hellenic Environmental Inspectorate.

XXXII. CONTRIBUTION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION TO THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT OF EVERY PERSON OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS TO LIVE IN AN ENVIRONMENT ADEQUATE TO HIS OR HER HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

134. The Convention's implementation constitutes an important step forward in the efforts of the international community to ensure a sustainable environment for future generations. Greece believes that the existence of time frames, practical implementation

measures and the possibility for Governments to work together with civil society provide the foundations for effective environmental protection.

XXXIII. LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND OTHER MEASURES IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 6bis AND ANNEX I bis

Legislation and Information provided under this Article, remain the same as it is in the Report of the previous reporting cycle.

XXXIV. OBSTACLES ENCOUNTERED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 6bis AND ANNEX I bis

No available information

XXXV. FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 6bis AND ANNEX I bis

No available information

XXXVI. WEBSITE ADDRESSES RELEVANT TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 6bis

135. The list of authorized genetically modified organisms and the exact scope of authorisation is in the register of GM food and feed in the EU, on the site: www.ec.europa.eu/food/dyna/gm_register/index_en.cfm