



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
GENEVA

VERY URGENT

Ref. No. 6171.2 /60/AS 591

NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and reference made to the latter's Note Verbal AL Housing (2000-9) GRC 1/2013 dated 19.2.2013 (concerning communication of the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing Mrs Raquel Polnic) has the honor to convey the relevant replies provided by the Greek Government (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs).

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

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Geneva, 16 April 2013

To:

**-The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council**
Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Fax: 0041-22-917 9006

Pages attached: 1

OHCHR REGISTRY

18 APR 2013

Recipients : *S.P.D.*
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In response to the above mentioned paper and with reference to the competences of our Directorate, we inform you the following regarding the 6th question of the United Nations' special Rapporteur for the right to adequate housing:

Currently, 3 Social Shelters for the homeless are in operation in Athens funded and supervised by the Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Welfare. These shelters are of total capacity for 220 persons. In addition, 2 Social Shelters for the homeless are in operation funded by the Municipality of Athens and Vouliagmeni.

Moreover, there is an ongoing process to operate Night Shelters and Day Centers for the homeless, through a procurement of the Ministry of Labor, Social Security and Welfare.

Finally, we inform you that the Ministry funds and supervises structures for hosting vulnerable groups such as abused women and children, victims of trafficking, asylum seekers and unaccompanied minors, as well as a program that provides rent subsidy for uninsured elderly people.

Concerning the question on the number of homeless people in Greece, we inform you that currently there are no available official statistical data, in order to have a clear picture of the extent of the problem.

The rest of the issues mentioned in the paper, that is the legal framework for evictions, the abolition of the Workers' Housing Organization and the special tax for houses that is being collected through the electricity bills, do not lie within our competences.

- MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS

«According to article 75 of the Code of Municipalities and Communities (law 3463/2006) social protection and solidarity is among the responsibilities of municipal authorities. Within the notion of social protection lies the concern for supporting homeless and financially weak persons, through the implementation of policies or the participation in actions related to that cause.

Furthermore according to articles 187 and 188 of the Code of Municipalities and Communities, municipalities are empowered to sell properties, at a substantially low price, directly to homeless or poor persons or even build houses and then concess their use to beneficiaries.

Finally, according to article 94 of Law 3852/2010 ("Kallikrates"), from the 1st of January 2011, all the jurisdictions related to the support of homeless persons are exercised by the municipalities. These jurisdictions include the allotment of residences to persons for economic or other serious reasons as well as the acknowledgement of the persons who are entitled to housing aid».

- MINISTRY OF INTERIOR