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PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
GENEVA

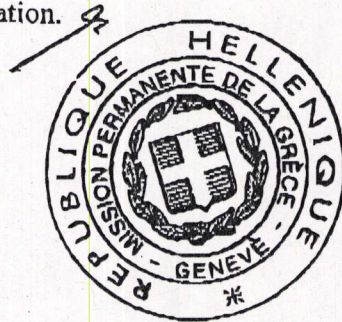
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URGENT

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 Verbal Note dated 2.04.2012 (regarding Rural Women and the Right to Food) has the honor to convey the asked information provided by the Greek Government (Ministry of Rural Development and Food).

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.



Geneva, May 4, 2012

To:
The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Fax: 0041-22-917 9011

Pages attached: 2

OHCHR REGISTRY

- 4 MAY 2012

Recipients: *S.P.D., HRC*

MINISTRY of RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD

In Greece there are no legal objects concerning the women's right to food or other rights that have an effect on it, such as the right to possess or farm or inherit land, the right to microcredit or to have access to rural development projects either by the public sector or the private sector. In fact, most rural development programs by the public sector give extra preference credits to projects propositioned by women entrepreneurs or projects that will increase job positions for women in the rural sector.

Neither religion nor common law prevent women from being head of rural households, of supporting on their own their families, of having a salary/ health insurance/ pension for their work in the agricultural section. Furthermore, there are certain social policies that help women farmers to manage their families in the same time with their jobs (for example day care centers for children etc) or offer to those less affluent free social services (partly paid summer vacations/ excursions, free books, free tickets to the theater etc).

In 2007 the Women's World Summit Foundation set for that year's theme for the International Day of the Rural Women the right to food. The Ministry of Rural Development and Food held a two - days convention in the 15th and 16th of October 2007 in Larisa. Women representatives from the women's rural cooperatives across country and women farmers from all prefectures so that all rural women of our country would be represented participated in this convention. The Minister of Rural Development and Food was there representing the Greek government and he also presented the Women's Cooperative from Mesotopos (island of Lesbos) with WWSF's Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life (plus 1.000 euros by the Ministry), that have been awarded to them by WWSF after the ministry put forward and supported their nomination for the particular prize.

In the convention representatives of various ministries, agencies (such as the General Secretariat for Gender Equality), universities, women's cooperatives etc. examined the conditions concerning women's access to food in Greece and especially the fact that our rural population in general suffers not from lack of food but mostly from health problems caused by an overabundance of food and corpulence. The conclusions of the conference were printed and distributed to all women's rural cooperatives, to all prefectures (for disclosing to the rural population) and the conference was also covered by the media (in special tv - shows made by our ministry for the rural population).

As for the health problems caused by corpulence, the Ministry of Rural Development and Food has formed and distributed nutritional guidelines to the rural population based on the Mediterranean diet (the guidelines can be accessed in the Ministry's site).