



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
GENEVA

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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 with reference to the latter's document entitled "*Survey on the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights*" (August 2016), has the honour to attach herewith the responses of the Ministry of Finance, Development and Tourism / General Secretariat of Commerce and Consumer Protection.

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, 23 September 2016



To: The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Mandate of the Working Group on the issue of Human Rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises

wg-business@ohchr.org

Att.: 2 pages

Subject: “Questionnaire regarding the implementation of Guiding Principles for Human Rights and Multinational and other businesses”

Ref.: to No. 39974/06-09-2016 document

Referring to the 39974/06-09-2016 document (Prot. Num from our department: K1-1529/15-09-2016) regarding the subject above, we mention that, among the jurisdictions of Trade’s Activity Department and consequently, of General Secretariat of Commerce and Consumers’ Protection, according to the Presidential Decree 116/2014, the composition of a National Plan on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for Greece is comprised. In this context, the constitution of a Working Group for the redaction of Principles and Practices Plan and propositions for the National Strategy for CSR was held (Decision, Prot. Num.: 91183/06/09/2016). The Working Group will hold meetings with key players of the economy, workers, consumers, etc., in order to ensure the broadest possible consensus and maximum applicability rate. The Working Group will focus on the study of practices of other European countries regarding CSR and of Business and Human Rights issues raised from UN, will propose the framework for CSR Principles and Practices for our country, and also, the Working Group will submit proposals for the National Strategic Action Plan for CSR and for institutional initiatives.

Our belief is that CSR is a voluntary activation, above institutional requirements, and initiates the transition from the pursuit of short-term profits to medium to long-term benefits. CSR can have significant application in many sectors of the national economy (e.g. financial

market, supply chain, responsible procurement, SMEs) and human rights and is a characteristic of modern societies; through awareness business and citizens can adopt a more respectful behavior toward human rights, improve the quality of life of citizens and adopt practices that protect the environment. CSR should be seen as an element of culture and not as a direct or indirect competitive element that aims only to profit. Namely, the target is to reward healthy businesses and enhance their actions towards a social responsible behavior.

Head of Department

Georgios Lioris