



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 Note Verbale dated 25 August 2015, has the honour to attach herewith the contribution of the Ministry of Productive Reconstruction, Environment and Energy to the questionnaire on human rights and climate change.

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, 2 December 2015

To: The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

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Att.: 3 pages

Answer to question 1.

We believe, the adverse effects of climate change have a wide range of implications, both direct and indirect, for the effective enjoyment of human rights, including, inter alia, the right to life, the right to adequate food, the right to the enjoyment of highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. Furthermore, the impacts of climate change may extend to the deprivation of the right to adequate housing, the right to self-determination, the right to safe drinking water and sanitation and the right to development, and also we should bear in mind that in no case may any people be deprived of their own means of subsistence.

The above were agreed unanimously when UN Human Rights Council adopted its Resolution on Climate Change.

Answer to question 2.

The risks and impacts of climate change in Greece, can be found in the following report : http://www.bankofgreece.gr/BogDocumentEn/chapter_II.pdf

Another directly-related data on the impacts of climate change are focused mainly on forest fires due to a combination of prolonged heat periods and strong winds.

Last year, in the period from January 1, 2014 up to July 31, 2014 we recorded a total of 3,846 forest (as well as other rural vegetation) fires across the country. Some of these fires had severe impacts in a limited amount of houses and infrastructure. Although we don't have analytical measurements and reporting for the health impacts due to these fires, it is not estimated as very significant.

Answer to question 3.**MITIGATION :****a.Targets for 2020**

Greece, together with the other countries of EU, has adopted (in 2007 and enacted in legislation in 2009) binding targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by :

- at least 20% reduction of Green House Gases (GHG) emissions compared to 1990 levels,
- 20% of EU energy consumption coming from renewable sources, and
- 20% improvement of energy efficiency.

These requirements are known as the 20-20-20 targets.

b.Targets for 2030

Greece, together with the other countries of EU, has adopted (in 2014) binding targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, as follows:

- 40% reduction of GHG emissions compared to 1990 levels,
- 27% of EU energy consumption coming from renewable sources, and
- 27-30% improvement of energy efficiency.

These requirements are known as the 2030 targets and was the main body of the INDC (Intended Nationally Determined Commitment) from Greece and the EU to the UNFCCC.

c.Target for 2050

An 80-95% cut in GHG emissions compared to 1990 levels.

LEGISLATION :

1. The EU Directive 2009/29/EC "Directive amending Directive 2003/87/EC so as to improve and extend the greenhouse gas emission allowance trading system of the Community"
2. The EU Decision 406/2009/EC "on the effort of Member States to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to meet the Community's commitments to reduce these emissions by 2020". The previous 2 pieces of legislation aimed at achieving the emission reduction target of 20%.
3. The EU Directive 2009/28/EC "on the promotion of renewable energy use. Mandatory national objectives aimed at participation of Renewables (RES) of 20% in energy consumption at EU level.
4. Directive 2009/31/EC "on the storage of carbon dioxide in geological formations". A legal framework to promote the development and safe use of carbon capture and storage (CCS). The EU intends to establish a network of CCS demonstration plants to test its viability with a view to commercial application by 2020 (approximately).
5. Improving energy efficiency is planned through the Action Plan for Energy Efficiency of the European Union.

The national plan for achieving the 20-20-20 :

<http://www.ypeka.gr/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=CEYdUkQ719k%3d&tabid=37>

ADAPTATION

The Greek national Climate Change Adaptation Strategy preparation has been concluded internally and very shortly will be open to a public consultation phase scheduled to terminate at the end of November/beginning of December.

It is expected to finalize the process and adopt the Strategy by the end of December 2015.

The next step is evaluating the National Adaptation Strategy under the foreseen Regional Adaptation Plans for the whole of Greece. That process is expected to initiate by mid-2016.

Answer to question 4.

N/A

Answer to question 5.**MitIGATION :**

A big variety of projects, Some selected examples :

Energy issues :

Promotion of RES in wide national scale through feed-in-tariffs etc.

Plans for connection of various Greek islands with the mainland with underwater electricity connectors, a roadmap for the reform of the Greek gas market was prepared for the facilitation of gas distribution over petrol and therefore reduction of emissions etc.

Energy efficiency at buildings

Buildings in Greece account for approximately 36% of the total energy consumption, while, during the years 2000-2005, relevant energy consumption increased by approximately 24%, one of the highest increases in Europe.

Within this context, the Ministry of the Environment and Energy, having completed the legal framework on buildings' energy efficiency, has developed a set of financial incentives, with co-financing from the European Union, for the implementation of energy efficiency upgrading interventions in residential buildings, via the "Energy Efficiency at Household Buildings" Program (EXOIKONOMO programme). More info in the site :

<http://exoikonomisi.ypeka.gr/Default.aspx?tabid=629&locale=en-US&language=el-GR>

For whatever regards transportation, it was prepared a 'Green Ring' regulation plan for the reduction of emissions from the circulation of old heavy vehicles in the Athens metropolitan Area (2011-12).

Under the GHG emission trading System (ETS) continuous modernization for the industrial sector is achieved etc.

The "Health Map" developed from the Ministry of Health, represents the main tool for planning and implementation of national health policy. It is a mechanism for sustained collection and processing of data regarding the health status, morbidity and health needs of the population, the main factors affecting health, the measurement needs in specific population groups etc. Analyzing these data, captures the real needs in primary and hospital health services, as well as preventive services and health promotion. Based on the above data, it promotes the development of national health policy and facilitates decision making. The Health Map covers both national and regional level, allowing the programming and monitoring across the country health policy. Specific climate change information is given i.e for possible threats from insects etc.

ADAPTATION

Specific measures will be taken once the national Strategy is approved after the public consultation phase (see relevant answer for question no 3 earlier).

However, various reports are examining specific issues i.e.

the effects of climate change in tourism, which is a significant sector for the Greek economy :

http://www.bankofgreece.gr/BogEkdoseis/CCISC_Tourism%20and%20climate%20change_Fw%20Ch1.pdf