



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
GENEVA

URGENT

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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 Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation and referring to his letter dated from March 1st 2017, has the honour to forward attached herewith the answers of the Greek Ministry of Environment relevant to your questionnaire. In addition, the answers of the Greek Ministry of Health will be forwarded to you as soon as they become available.

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 Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 7 April 2017



To the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation
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The implementation of the Directive on Drinking Water and control of drinking water quality is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health, the competent departments of the Region for Public Health and the respective Municipalities (Ministry of Interior). Competent providers and network operators (municipalities, municipal water companies) are responsible for maintaining and ensuring the proper status and operation of treatment plants and water supply systems and the implementation of related projects to ensure drinking water supply, the provision of water and sanitation services, the population's access to these services, to address economically disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

The Special Secretariat for Water is responsible for the development and implementation of programs related to the protection and management of the water resources of Greece and the coordination of competent authorities dealing with the aquatic environment. The implementation of the Water Framework and the Marine Strategy Directives as well of the related daughter Directives fall within the scope of the activities of the Secretariat. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the Regional Water Authorities, formulates and, upon approval by the National Council for Water, implements the River Basin Management Plans and the national monitoring program.

The purpose of the EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD) is to establish a framework for the protection of inland surface waters (rivers and lakes), transitional waters (estuaries), coastal waters and groundwater. The fundamental objective of the Water Framework Directive is to prevent any deterioration in water quality and to achieve at least 'good status'. Water Framework Directive sets ecological criteria and objectives, designed to protect and, where necessary, restore the structure and function of aquatic ecosystems themselves, and thereby safeguard the sustainable use of water resources. The WFD also introduces an integrated water resources management on the basis of river basins, rather than administrative borders. It also provides new opportunities for anyone, including the general public, to become actively involved in shaping the management of river basin districts.

The River Basin Management Plans, which have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Directive 2000/60/EC, in application of Law 3199/2003 and PD 51/2007, have reflected the existing status of surface and groundwater bodies and proposed measures where necessary for the conservation, protection and restoration of good water status. An important part of the management plans is the current situation and the proposed measures designed for the management and protection of water bodies intended for the production of drinking water. In particular, to ensure the quality of drinking water, River Basin Management Plans include measures to satisfy the requirements of Article 7 of Directive 2000/60/EC, in order to reduce the level of purification treatment necessary for the production of drinking water.

The management of urban waste water is defined by EU Directive 91/271/EEC (Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive), incorporated into national law by Joint Ministerial Decision 5673/400/1997, as applicable. The objective of above legislation is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of discharges of urban waste water from settlement areas (cities/towns) and of biodegradable industrial waste water. The Directive requires the appropriate collection and regulates discharges of waste water, by specifying the minimum type of treatment to be provided and setting maximum emission limit values for the major pollutants (organic load and nutrients) in order to protect biodiversity, prevent degrading of water intended for

human consumption or for bathing ensuring the protection of public health. The Special Secretariat for Water has the responsibility to monitor the implementation of Directive 91/271/EEC, for agglomerations falling in the provisions of the Directive (with a population equivalent over 2,000 M.I.P.). The competent authorities upload the technical and operational data of Wastewater Treatment Plants at the National Database, where the public has access to the relevant information.