



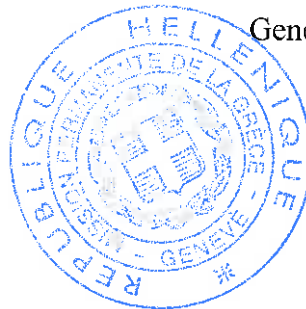
PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
GENEVA

Ref. No. 6171.1/10/146

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 no. WRGS/LOH/Res27/11, dated 11 December 2015, has the honour to attach herewith the information provided by the Ministry of Health regarding the issue of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights.

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, 29 January 2016

To: The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

registry@ohchr.org

Att.: 1 page

Αγγλική μετάφραση:

The Directorate for Public Health having regard to Decision No 2 of the 238th plenary session of the Hellenic Central Health Council (KESY) of 6-12-2012 "on improving perinatal care in Greece", which had been accepted by the Minister of Health, as well as to the recognized right to health and the need for further improvement of perinatal care services in Greece, **has suggested the enactment of a law provision on improving perinatal care**, which has been voted by the Parliament (**Article 2 of Law 4316/2014** "Establishment of a dementia observatory, improving perinatal care, regulations for issues under the competence of the Ministry of Health and other provisions", Government Gazette, 270, v. A').

In particular, this law provides for the establishment of:

- Perinatal Centres;
 - Simple-, Intermediate- and High-Dependency Neonatal care Units
 - the mandatory monitoring of high-risk pregnancies and the mandatory use of Perinatal Centres for high-risk deliveries. High-risk pregnant and ready-to-give-birth women are to be referred to the Perinatal Centres under the responsibility of the doctor who monitors them in accordance with medical protocols for selecting high-risk pregnancies and deliveries. By decision of the Minister for Health upon the recommendation of the Central Health Council, the protocols for selecting high-risk pregnancies and deliveries will be defined.
 - the development of public Perinatal Centres in all Healthcare Regions and their interconnection with all healthcare units of the Healthcare Region.
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- the drawing of a five-year National Action Plan, the creation of a mechanism for monitoring perinatal care and the formation in the Central Health Council of a Permanent Committee on Perinatal Care.

All the aforementioned measures aim at providing effective and qualitative perinatal care services to all women, during pregnancy and in the post-natal period as well as to all newborns, according to their health status and regardless of their financial status or other socioeconomic barriers.

In addition, it is our Ministry's view that the above institutional framework follows basic steps of the relevant (A/HRC/21/22) technical support and in particular:

- developing a National Action Plan on perinatal care (planning)
- resuming responsibilities (accountability)
- monitoring the status of perinatal care (monitoring)