



Convention on the Rights of the Child

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Consideration of reports of States parties

Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

List of issues concerning additional and updated information related to the second and third combined periodic report of Greece (CRC/C/GRC/2-3)

Addendum

Written replies of Greece

Part I

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the list of issues (CRC/C/GRC/Q/2-3)

1. The body referred to as the National Committee has been established under the name “National Observatory for the Rights of the Child” (NORC), which was introduced by law 2909/2001 and came under the authority of the General Secretariat for Youth (GGNG) of the Ministry of Education. According to the provisions of the said Law the National Observatory was meant to operate via a five-member scientific Committee, appointed by decision of the Minister of Education for a period of five years. It would come into session every three months and would be supported by two employees of the General Secretariat for Youth. After its establishment, the National Observatory has been operational approximately for one year, 1 March 2002-31 December 2002.

2. In 2004 the Minister of Education proceeded to the setting up of the five-member scientific board, following a proposal made by the General Secretariat for Youth [GGNG] (Decision 3710/7.9.2005); the board was composed of a renowned child psychiatrist, as President, and four members (a pedagogue, a regional elementary education director, an attorney and a journalist).

3. The Observatory’s Mission is to monitor and promote in Greece the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This is to be achieved by

carrying out reports that focus on the actual conditions and the situation of children in the country, by promoting scientific research, as well as by taking initiatives aiming at the protection of children's rights. The Observatory's work is addressed to all children in Greece and in particular children whose rights are violated.

4. The GGNG in 2010-2011 took the initiative to remedy the weaknesses of the National Observatory, by amending its legal basis, replacing the current legislation and establishing an independent legal entity of private law. However, the expected results have not been achieved, because of the general fiscal procedure of absorption of legal entities connected with the public sector.

5. Nonetheless, GGNG has been promoting the effective operation of the National Observatory, as a matter of priority, within the framework of the legislation in force (Law No. 2909/2001) and will launch an open call to figures active in the field of the protection of children's rights for the establishment of the five-member Board, introducing the broad participation of civil society and reinforcing the structures of administrative support, in order for the Observatory to be able to pursue its real mission.

6. Furthermore, the financial resources of the Observatory derive from State funding and other sources, such as European Union and international programmes. Moreover, the Board of the National Observatory will establish its new Internal Regulation after its appointment in order to further arrange all pending issues concerning its operation and infrastructure.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 4, of the list of issues

7. Concerning the effects of the financial crisis on poverty and the action taken to mitigate them we should mention the following:

Data by the National Statistical Service

8. According to data by the National Statistical Service for the year 2009 ("Statistics on Income and Living Conditions 2010" - year of income reference 2009)¹ the risk-of-poverty rate concerning the population up to 17 years of age amounts to 23 per cent, whereas the respective rate for the total of population is 20.1 per cent.

9. According to the same data, the population living in households with no labor active members or with members having a part-time job amounts to 544,800 persons, whereas the previous year was 488,200 persons accordingly.

10. Children belong to one of the most vulnerable categories at risk of poverty.

11. Also, the risk-of-poverty rate for households with three or more adults with dependent children (29.3 per cent) and for one-parent households with at least one child (33.4 per cent, whereas the respective indicator for households with two parents and one dependent child is 21.6 per cent) are significant indicators regarding child poverty.

12. Furthermore, the same survey shows that children, with a percentage of 12.2 per cent, are a main category facing difficulties regarding at least four of the nine dimensions determining material deprivation (according to the statistical methodology of the National Statistical Service).

¹ The results of the survey for the year 2011 with year of income reference 2010 will be publicized in September 2012.

Data by Eurostat

13. The most recent data available on child poverty are included in the following tables by Eurostat:

(a) Population at risk of poverty or social exclusion/age: Less than 18 years

	2008	2009	2010
Greece	28.7%	30.0%	:

(b) At-risk-of-poverty rate (cut-off point: 60 per cent of median equivalised income after social transfers)/ age: Less than 18 years

	2008	2009	2010
Greece	23.0%	23.7%	:

(c) In-work at-risk-of-poverty rates by household type

	2008	2009	2010
Households with dependent children	16.8%	16.9%	:
Two or more adults with dependent children	16.8%	16.7%	:
Single parent with dependent children	20.7%	26.1%	:

14. The Greek National Reform Programme has identified the fight against child poverty as one of the three main priorities of the Greek Government in the field of social integration and social protection.

15. The target set is to lower this percentage of children at risk of poverty to 18 per cent by year 2020 and in order to accomplish it, a series of actions and measures are underway. Key points of this strategy are the following:

(a) Supporting parents' employment: Taking into consideration that child poverty is mainly due to parents' poverty resulting from unemployment and aiming, inter alia, at supporting said parents who are among the most important "available resources" for children (DGD 2007 Recommendations, para. 25) the National Reform Programme suggests interventions against exclusion from the labour market. These interventions include:

- The "passive" subsidizing policies are converted into Active Labour Market Policies (ALMP). These include subsidization of social security contributions, and the "reintegration voucher" as a subsidy to the employer who hires a registered unemployed person.
- Developing structures and programmes of social work, social economy and social entrepreneurship (statutory framework – Law 4019/2011)
- Using new financing tools, such as the Social Economy Fund
- Programmes aiming at the labour market inclusion of those unemployed who are members of households with children
- Programmes for the acquisition of work experience for young persons up to 24 years old entering the labour market for the first time
- Programmes supporting women's entrepreneurship and particularly heads of single-member households

- Programmes aiming at upgrading the skills of members of households
- Regional Integrated Programmes for the support of Employment.
- Local social inclusion action for socially vulnerable groups.

In this respect it is also worth mentioning that in order to better support the unemployed, unemployment compensation was increased by 1.6 per cent as of 1 July 2011.

(b) Ensuring access of children and their families to services, in order to cover basic needs and to upgrade their quality of life

- According to Law 3996/2011, art. 35 “Restructuring of the Labour Inspectorate Body and regulations of social insurance issues” (O.G. 170A/5.8.11) access to medical and pharmaceutical services to the unemployed is extended for one more year while special requirements are defined in the case of people with very low work intensity. In this respect, it is worth mentioning the establishment of the Social Residential Tariff, ensuring provision of electricity at lower prices for vulnerable social groups and particularly for persons with low income, families with three children (families comprising four children or more already enjoyed reduced tariffs since at least 1996), long-term unemployed and disabled persons. The scope of this measure was recently enlarged to encompass more people in need.

(c) Upgrading institutions and services with the ultimate goal of social inclusion of all children.

- Programmes offering childcare services in cooperation with local authorities were implemented in 2010 and 2011. These include:

(i) Operational Programme: “Human Resources Development” 2007-2013 / Action: Reconciliation of family and professional life

The aim of this action is to increase women’s employment and to protect women’s employment by supporting them through the provision of childcare services in specific care structures. The action concerns women who are mothers of babies and children, as well as mothers of children with disabilities.

This action started in July 2008 and will be completed in 2013. It is implemented on an annual basis with a duration of 11 months. During the two previous years, the Workers’ Housing Organization was responsible for the implementation of the action.

For 2010-2011 the Hellenic Agency for Local Development and Local Government SA (EETAA) was responsible for the implementation of this action. The budget for 2010-2011 was redefined to €102,160,000 from €69,990,000. The budget’s increase resulted in the increase of existing positions by 50 per cent.

(ii) 24 childcare facilities operate under the Workers’ Housing Organization programmes, offering childcare services to 1,200 children of its beneficiaries, who are mostly members of households at high poverty risk.

- A Pilot Programme named “Provision of integrated local support and care services for poor families with children”, co-funded by the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism, has been launched in 2011. The aim of the programme is to eradicate persistent poverty and deprivation through the creation of four centres which will provide support services for children. The actions that will take place are: support, advisory services and guidance of children/advisory services and support of parents/activation and education of volunteers in order to provide help at home. The budget is estimated at €1,200,000 and the programme is being implemented in four municipalities.

- Measures for the support of Roma and poor families with children
- “Socio-medical Centres”: The Socio-medical centres aim at facilitating the social inclusion of the Roma population and at making the Roma further acquainted with the use of public services in the fields of education, health, employment, welfare etc. Special attention is given to children through the provision of consultative services, the support and promotion of children’s rights and the use of all relevant State services.

This action was implemented in the 3rd Community Support Framework 2000-2006 through the Integrated Interventions of the Regional Operational Programmes and was co-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF). At present, it is funded by national funds. Nevertheless, it is planned to evolve into the action “Support Centres for Roma and other vulnerable groups” and to become part of the “Human Resources Development” Operational Programme, co-funded by ESF. There are approximately 33 Centres operating within Roma Communities.

The average operational cost for each Centre is about €170,000 per year. In the coming period 2012- 2013 the funding for this measure will amount to approximately €14,000,000.

- Finally, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed recently between the Ministry of Labour and Social Security and the Hellenic Network for Corporate Social Responsibility, in order to create synergies and undertake actions around common agendas, such as tackling child poverty. The aim of the Memorandum is to attract private capital and develop a culture of social investment.

16. Within the framework of the economic policy programme adopted to face the current financial crisis, a special emphasis was given to fair burden sharing and on protection of vulnerable groups of the population.

17. Concerning tax policy, whereas the general threshold of the income subject to taxation amounts to €5,000, young persons under 30 years are taxed only for their income above €9,000, provided that their declared income does not exceed the amount of €9,000. Moreover, each of the above thresholds is further raised by €2,000 for the first two children and by a further €3,000 for each subsequent child supported by the taxpayer.

18. The benefits policy of the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity for the support of the family and the child and more specifically with regard to maternity benefits and benefits for unprotected children that are included in the second and the third periodic national report has not been amended to date.

19. Nevertheless, and given the current fiscal conditions, the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity has proceeded to the rationalization of the three-child and large family benefits to parents by adopting the new Law 3918/2011 (Official Gazette 31/A') in which an essential precondition is set, namely that beneficiaries must have permanent and continuous stay in Greece for ten years.

20. The benefits sums according to the aforementioned law are defined as follows and refer to their payment on a monthly basis:

- Benefit for the third child: €177.00
- Benefit for a three-child family: €44.00
- Multi-child (large) family benefit: €44.00
- Lifelong pension for mothers with many children: €102.00
- Lump sum allowance for the birth of the third and subsequent children: €2,000.00

21. The expense for the above benefits amounted to €787 million for each year in 2009 and 2010.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 5, of the list of issues

22. At the moment data concerning the several aspects of the Convention are kept by each competent authority according to the subject they refer to. As regards children with disabilities, in particular, the central administration – mainly government bodies and the ministries – exchange information and statistical data on people with disabilities in order to get a complete overview of the issue in the whole of Greece. As an institution collecting individual statistical indicators, the National Statistical Service produces regularly centralized statistical bulletins with regard to disability.

Child abuse – Implementation of a national child abuse and neglect referral center, viz. a national registry for child abuse and neglect reported or detected cases

23. The structure, function and resources required and other necessary prerequisites for this centre to begin operating have been studied at length in the preparatory-maturation study under the title “A Preparation and Maturation Study of requirements for the development of a National System for Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect in Greece (NSR-CAN)” conducted by the Institute of Child Health and submitted to the Hellenic Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity within the context of the Operational Program “Health – Welfare” of the European Union 3rd Support Framework for Greece.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 6, of the list of issues

24. Greek legislation unequivocally sets the age of majority at 18 years, as already discussed in previous reports (CRC/C/28/Add.17 para. 1, points (a-d), concerning civil law, and CRC/C/GRC2-3, para. 107 et seq., concerning penal law). Provisions mentioned in document CRC/C/GRC/Q/2-3, Part I, para. 6, neither deal with the age of majority, nor set – directly or indirectly – the age of majority. These provisions are not incompatible with the Convention, especially if read in the light of the Preamble, which stipulates, inter alia, that “the child should be fully prepared to live an individual life in society” and of art. 29, para. 1 (d) of the Convention, which provides that “the preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society” is one of the purposes of education.

25. In any case, both the Criminal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure are under review. Two law drafting committees have been created; one has already submitted a draft new Criminal Code and the other is in the process of drafting a new Code of Criminal Procedure. All issues related to the protection of the child are appropriately being taken into consideration in the context of the law drafting and legislative procedures, so as to ensure full implementation of the Convention.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 7, of the list of issues

26. At the outset, it should be noted that, notwithstanding the judicial authority bestowed on the Muftis on certain matters of family and inheritance law, members of the Muslim minority in Thrace do have the option to take their legal cases to the Civil Courts.

27. Greece is firmly committed to strengthening the substantive review and control, by domestic Courts, of Muftis’ decisions on these matters, thus ensuring that their legal effect and/or implementation do not contravene its Constitution and the European/International human rights conventions, particularly as regards the rights of women and children.

28. Bearing in mind the expressed preferences and visible tendencies within the majority of the Muslim minority on religious, social and legal matters, Greece will also consider and study possible re-adjustments, with regard to the application of Sharia Law in Thrace,

taking hereby into account its legal obligations and the potential changes of the wishes of the Muslim minority itself.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 8, of the list of issues

29. Regarding the protection of the rights of Roma children, it is worth mentioning new developments in the fields of housing and education.

Housing of Roma

30. In this field, important steps have been taken within the framework of the Integrated Action Plan (IAP) of the Greek Roma (described in CRC/C/GRC/2-3, chapter VI, section N, paras. 334-349):

31. The housing programme launched by the IAP was further amended in 2011 by Joint Ministerial Decision 15654/31.03.2011, in order, inter alia, to help Roma beneficiaries to respond to their obligations undertaken under the housing loans agreements.

32. The number of families successfully nominated is constantly rising and has already reached 7,854 (compared to 7,241 as mentioned in CRC/C/GRC/2-3, para. 339). Among them, a total of 6,570 beneficiaries have already proceeded with the disbursement of the loan granted.

33. The enhanced protection and assistance accorded to Roma children concerning housing is proved by the fact that during the 2nd implementation phase of the IAP (2006-2009) 91 per cent of beneficiary families (1,921 out of a total of 2,109), comprising in total 6,726 children, corresponded to the criterion “large families”.

34. Responding to the proposals submitted by local government organizations, the Ministry of Interior has allocated since 2002 a total amount of €94.9 million to 96 municipalities nationwide, on infrastructure works held by the local authorities and aimed at the improvement of Roma living conditions. A total of €53.9 million has already been disbursed on the basis of the progress of the works. Thus in spite of the adverse economic situation of the country, the amounts of €80 million and €42.2 million mentioned in paragraph 348 CRC/C/GRC/2-3 have increased by 18.62 per cent and 27.72 per cent respectively within two years.

35. In addition, the programme of housing loans for Greek Roma contributed decisively to the familiarization of Roma with the procedures of registration in the municipalities or communities where they live or fall under, as the certification of registration in a municipality or a community constituted a basic pre-requirement for their participation in the programme.

Education of Roma Children

36. The Ministry of Education’s priority regarding education of Roma children is to include them in schooling from a very early age, ensure their timely enrollment in 1st grade and their familiarization with school reality and offer them extra tutorial support.

37. The implementation of the “Education of Roma children” programme co-funded by the European Union started in the school year 2010-2011 and the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. It covers all of the country through a wide variety of actions and especially with the use of the Roma mediators belonging to the communities.

38. All the agents, such as heads and directors of schools, teaching personnel, school counsellors and heads of bureaus work effectively and closely with the implementing

institutions and associates of these Programmes, in order to render our educational interventions in the field of Roma children education effective.

39. It is recalled that the integration of Roma children in regular classes constitutes a firm intention and goal of the Ministry of Education, while their exclusion and/or segregation from the remainder of the pupils and their marginalisation contravenes the Greek Constitution, Law 3304/2005 (Official Gazette 16, Vol. A'), which prohibits discrimination based on racial or ethnic origin in education and a host of other international instruments that are binding for Greece such as the European Convention on Human Rights and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

40. Taking into account the special educational, cultural and social characteristics of Roma, their attitude towards school (given that there is a great differentiation), and drawing on our experience from the implementation of previous projects which were characterized by a fragmented and discontinued approach, the Ministry is called to deal with the education of Roma children in school in a holistic manner, and to address efficiently the educational and social exclusion of Roma children.

41. Based on these general goals intervention actions are designed within the school and family environment, some of which are innovative and adapted to the special needs of Roma children and the specific conditions of the school and social environment in which these pupils live.

42. An important parameter taken into consideration during the design phase of the interventions of the project is the dwelling type of Roma, which differentiates their needs. The reason for the differentiation of measures is the classification of the needs and the necessary measures for children living in camps, children living in settlements in suburban zones as well as for children living in urban areas in much better conditions.

43. The main focus of the interventions is centered on the camps' population, since they are the ones facing the most complex problems when it comes to education and living conditions. For this reason education is not a priority for the camp residents.

44. Thus, interventions in camps have to be more organized and coordinated with the help of other local bodies and authorities besides teachers.

45. During the full phase of the project the intervention action will be implemented in 350 schools in our area of responsibility and it is estimated that around 12,000 children from preschool to middle school will benefit from this holistic intervention.

The innovative actions of the project are:

- Reinforcement of access and attendance in preschool education
- Intraschool interventions for the social inclusion and support of the regular attendance of Roma children
- Valorization of mediators (Roma) as much possible
- Establishment of the Creative Activities Areas for Pupils (CAAP)
- Linkage between school, family and the local community.

Education of Muslim children

46. The Greek Government is firmly committed to continuing its policy to uphold the right to education of children of the Muslim minority in Thrace, whose members are of Turkish, Pomak and Roma origin.

47. Taking, therefore, into account the comparative advantages of the public educational system – as opposed to minority structures – and nationwide priorities in this field, in

keeping with international, regional and European Union trends, the Greek Government stands ready:

- On the one hand, to further improve the functioning of the existing minority schools (which are supported and funded by the Greek State) and,
- On the other hand, and foremost, to successfully accommodate the preference for the public educational system widely and increasingly shown by persons belonging to the Muslim minority.

48. Such an accommodation is being pursued in parallel with courses aiming at preserving the linguistic and cultural characteristics of children belonging to the minority who attend public schools.

49. The “Education of the Children of the Muslim Minority in Thrace” Programme is a product of the new policy of the Greek State towards the Muslim minority in Thrace, already started in the 1990s. Its basic aim is the upgrading of the education of children of the minority and their harmonious integration into society as equal citizens of Greece and the European Union.

50. In accordance with current international educational standards and contemporary trends, the various activities introduced at State kindergartens serve as a tool for the smooth transition to primary education. Through the fourth phase of the above-mentioned program, there have been special provisions for the implementation of measures aiming at the smooth familiarization of the children with the institution of education, language development, the Greek language, and support of the mother tongue. In the framework of the program, development of new educational material appropriate for pre-school age children attending nursery school as well as revision, if deemed necessary, of the educational materials that had been produced in the context of the previous phases of the program, have been planned. Minority teachers are encouraged to work at kindergartens in areas where many members of the Muslim minority live. For the time being, the number of university-educated kindergarten teachers from the minority is relatively low, but the situation is expected to improve significantly in the following years, as a result of the 0.5 per cent quota for admission into Higher Education.

51. The majority of children of primary school age attend minority education that offers a bilingual program, within the framework of which both Greek and Turkish are used as languages of instruction but also constitute separate language subjects in the curriculum.

52. Besides the children who attend the minority schools, a significant number of minority children currently attend Greek-language public schools. Almost all students complete the elementary education program with the exception of children from families with particular economic and social problems, generally located on the outskirts of large cities, but often moving in search of work. The programme organizes systematic intervention to support these students to reduce stress, poor attendance and early school leaving.

53. The number of minority pupils attending secondary school has significantly increased in the last 15 years. Attendance at high school tends to generalize. About one quarter attend a school exclusively for the minority (minority high school or Koranic schools), while three quarters of pupils are in public schools. Despite the clear improvement observed, until recently there were apparently frequent repeat classes or dropouts. Although the dropout rate is decreasing rapidly, it seems that it remains clearly higher than the national average.

54. The access of minority students to the level of the last three years of secondary education has been increased. A significant percentage attend technical education schools.

Education of foreign and repatriated students

55. It is a nationwide project, implemented in public primary and secondary education comprising a population of foreign and repatriated pupils of over 10 per cent.
56. It involves pupils and teachers, because it improves the educational work of schools and prepares them to face the challenges of a diverse society.
57. It aims to improve the school performance of repatriated and foreign students in Greek schools, in order to ensure as far as possible equal groups with native students and their social inclusion.
58. The project began in September 2010 and will be completed in December 2013.

Educational Priority Zones

59. The goal of the Ministry of Education is a gradual integration of all cross-cultural educational actions and best practice programs, which address the problems faced by vulnerable social groups, into the Educational Priority Zones (EPZ) institutions.
60. The implementation of EPZ is a measure of support in regions with low financial and educational indicators, so as to lift barriers to the successful integration of pupils into the education system. The Primary and Secondary education school units which implement the EPZ (art. 26, 1a, of Law 3879/21-9-2010 Government Gazette 163, vol. 1 and Ministerial Decision ΑΦ821/3412P/157476/Z1/31-12-2010 Government Gazette 2142 Vol. 2) operate in regions with a low overall educational indicator, a high rate of school dropouts and limited access to Tertiary education, combined with poor socioeconomic indicators, such as a low combined welfare and human development indicator and a high poverty risk indicator.
61. The EPZ project will operate in synergy with programs for the educational integration of foreign pupils, repatriated Greeks, Roma children and children belonging to the Muslim minority of Thrace, in order to create a permanent institution within the framework of the Greek education system which will support the overall educational needs of vulnerable social groups.
62. Educational Priority Zones follow the example of affirmative action in order to allow students to overcome the educational barriers they face due to economic, social and cultural reasons.

The EU PROGRESS Programme- (sub-project “IRIS”)

63. The General Secretariat for Youth, in cooperation with two civil society non-governmental organizations (NGOs), SCHEDIA and KEPAD, as well as the Greek Ombudsman, is running the European Union Employment and Social Solidarity Program named “PROGRESS 2011” which comprises three distinct parts: (a) improving the implementation of the legislation on non-discrimination, (b) promoting the dissemination of information on the European Union and (c) strengthening national policy and legislation in the field of non-discrimination.
64. The particular project implemented via PROGRESS, is named “IRIS – Combating Stereotypes and Discrimination: Actions promoting participation, inclusion and diversity”. It aims at encouraging the fight against discrimination, focusing on awareness and understanding of equality issues across the racial or ethnic origin, age disability, gender, religion and sexual orientation divide. The “IRIS” project promotes activities in the spheres of civic and school education via an array of actions that include training against discrimination for teachers and educators of the A’ Grade of the Educational System, for teachers and students of the B’ Grade of the Educational System, and actions to combat discrimination against the Roma population in several cities in Greece.

Children with disabilities

65. Many steps have been taken in order to build and improve knowledge about all issues that children with disabilities face. Towards this, disability organisations will be consulted in the preparation of such a programme and their views will be taken into consideration in all matters which concern children with disabilities. Although many steps have been taken, it is true that young people with disabilities still experience serious difficulties and face barriers in all aspects of life: work, sports, culture, entertainment and community life. A comprehensive strategy should address this issue in such a way as to ensure full participation in society, taking into account the special needs of children with disabilities.

References to “Macedonian” minority and names

66. Greece does not accept the use of the term “Macedonian” to denote a “minority” living in Greece (paragraph 8) or the name of children registered before the competent authorities (paragraph 10). This is because Greece does not recognize that a distinct national, ethnic or linguistic minority exists in its territory by the name “Macedonian”. In fact, there are a small number of people in the Greek region of Macedonia who, apart from Greek, speak a Slav dialect, which is confined to family or colloquial use. These individuals fully enjoy all human rights and fundamental freedoms under the Greek constitution and international treaties, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Furthermore, it is to be clarified that the name “Macedonian” is used in the cultural/regional sense by 2.5 million Greek Macedonians living in the region of Greek Macedonia. In the light of the above, attaching a different meaning to the term “Macedonian” cannot be accepted, as it would only create confusion.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 9, of the list of issues

67. The Greek Ombudsman is a constitutionally sanctioned Independent Authority, founded in October 1998 and operating since 2003 also as Children’s Ombudsman, according to the provisions of Law 3094/2003. As part of his mission, the Ombudsman constantly visits schools and institutions and listens to the children’s opinion on matters affecting their rights. Since 2009 the Ombudsman has created a 20-member Youth Advisory Panel, consisted of young persons aged 14-17 living in various parts of Greece, who have been selected on the basis of specific criteria, after a public invitation. The Members of the Panel regularly meet and communicate with the Ombudsman and inform him on their views on issues related to the implementation of children’s rights. The Panel was formed following similar practices of other European Children’s Ombudsmen. Since 2010 the Greek Ombudsman and its young advisors have also participated in the European Network of Young Advisors, contributing to the exchange of information and promotion of proposals and recommendations at European level.

68. At national level the Youth Advisory Panel has so far contributed to various activities of the Ombudsman. Examples of such activities are the open debate on “School Regulations” that took place in Thessaloniki in March 2009 and the following discussion of members of the Youth Advisory Panel with the Minister of Education in November 2009, on the occasion of celebration of 20 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

(<http://www.0-18.gr/gia-megaloy/nea/syztisi-tis-ytoyrgoy-paideias-me-tin-omada-efibon-symboylon-toy-synigoroy-toy-paidioy>)

Local Youth Councils

69. Children's involvement in public life was promoted through the establishment of Local Youth Councils in municipalities and the activities of European Local Democracy Week.

70. Local Youth Councils were introduced by law 3443/2006, in order to strengthen the participation of young people and children above 15 in local issues management. Their main role is to identify, highlight and monitor the needs and problems of youth at the local level, to cooperate with the local municipality in initiatives and activities aiming at the full and free development of personality of young people and to develop partnerships with local youth Councils at national and European level.

An important aspect of Local Youth Councils' action is the participation of their presidents – who are elected, along with the other members of the administrative council, by residents of each municipality from 15 to 28 years old, – in the meetings of the local municipal council, when issues concerning young people of the municipality are discussed.

71. Within the framework of European Local Democracy Week (ELDW), which is sponsored by the Council of Europe and takes place the second week of October each year, simultaneous national and local events are organised with the participation of local authorities of all member States of the Council of Europe, in order to promote citizens' knowledge of local democracy and their participation therein. The Ministry of Interior has since 2007 contributed to the promotion of European Local Democracy Week (ELDW), addressing different target groups, among which young people, who have the chance to be informed about local authorities' function and are encouraged to actively participate on local issues within the proposed actions.

72. Hearing of minors in both civil and criminal proceedings is guaranteed by special provisions, as mentioned in CRC/C/GRC/2-3, chapter III, section J paras. 144-147 and chapter V, section E para. 261. A recent development concerning hearing of minors in criminal proceedings was the amendment of article 45A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CCP) by virtue of article 5 of Law 3860/2010. Said article of the CCP invests the public prosecutor with the power to refrain from bringing charges against a minor having supposedly committed a misdemeanour, if he deems that this is not necessary to deter the minor from committing another crime. The hearing of the minor by the public prosecutor before reaching his decision has become obligatory.

73. Within the framework of the institution of the Greek Children's Ombudsman the pilot function of the web site www.0-18.gr/rotao was recently introduced, in order for children to ask questions and raise complaints concerning their rights. Answers will be given by specialised partners of the Children's Ombudsman and selected cases will be presented without reference to names and other personal data categorized by the specific subject they refer to. Pupils have already been informed on the existence and function of the above-mentioned web site by their school teachers.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 10, of the list of issues

74. (See also reply given to paragraph 8). Concerning registration of birth of Roma children, it should be noted that there is an obligation prescribed by law and lying upon certain persons (in the first place upon the parents and then upon the doctor, the midwife or any other person present at the childbirth) to declare the birth of the child.

Failing to perform said obligation entails the criminal liability of the above-mentioned persons and a fine may be imposed by the Misdemeanours Court. However, the prosecution cannot take place or shall stop in case the person responsible to declare the birth makes a late declaration before the Registrar, paying a €4.50 fee if the birth is declared from the

10th day up to the 90th day of the birth, and a €10.50 fee if the birth is declared after the 90th day. In any case according to Greek legislation Roma children do not become stateless as a result of not being registered at birth.

75. Furthermore, as regards the way of registration of acts of birth, marriage, death etc., according to the provisions of law 344/1976, the relevant Presidential Decrees and circulars, all acts are drafted in the Greek language. Foreign names are registered both in Greek and Latin characters. The rendering of such foreign names in Greek as well as their proper intonation is based on a formal statement by the person concerned.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 11, of the list of issues

Foster care

76. The institution of foster care of minors is basically regulated by the provisions of articles 1655 up to 1665 of the Civil Code.

77. According to article 1655 of the Civil Code, the decision to place a minor in a foster family is taken either by a court or by the biological parent or the guardian of the minor, provided that the latter has the parental care or the guardianship of the minor.

78. Under the legal framework in force, child protection and welfare institutions may place the minors under their protection, provided only that they have ensured their custody by a court order, or by the written consent of the persons who have their custody.

79. Moreover, according to the Presidential Decree 86/2009, the supervision of foster care is assigned to the Directorates of Social Welfare or, depending on the case, to the Welfare Sections of the Directorates of Health and Welfare of the Prefectural Administrations, a competence which has been recently transferred to the Regions according to Law 3852/2010, concerning minors the care of whom has been assigned to non-profit legal entities of private law according to article 1600 of the Civil Code.

Adoption

80. Greek legislation protects the institution of adoption through a series of Civil Code provisions (articles 23, 1542-1588).

81. Inter-country adoptions are allowed (articles 4 and 5 of Law 2447/1996), provided that they are in conformity with the terms and conditions set by the legislation in force. Currently there are no relevant bilateral agreements in force.

82. Greece has ratified the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption that was signed at the Hague on 29 May 1993. Subsequently, by virtue of article 19 of Law 3868/2010 (Official Gazette 129/A'), a "Central Authority of Inter-country Adoptions" has been established in the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity for the implementation of the above-mentioned Convention.

83. The adoption procedures followed in the framework of the legislation in force in our country ensure that those who wish to make an international or domestic adoption are suitable, that a follow-up exists for the foreign or native children that are adopted, through controls both before and after the adoption has taken place, via reports drawn up by the competent social services of the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 12, of the list of issues

84. Generally speaking, the well-being of legally residing immigrants and their families is a key concern of the Greek State. Towards this end, the Greek State has adopted a series of important legislative initiatives aimed at granting rights to legal immigrants and their

children in order to ensure their equal participation in the economic, political, social and cultural life of the country.

85. Most importantly, Law 3838/24.03.2010 provides for the first time the opportunity to “third generation” immigrants to acquire Greek citizenship by birth and for “second generation” immigrants the right to acquire Greek citizenship either by birth – provided their parents are legal residents in the country for at least five consecutive years – or after having attended and successfully completed at least six classes of Greek school. More specifically, the Law provides the opportunity for “second generation” migrant children to acquire Greek citizenship before they reach adulthood. This special provision is justified as the Greek State aims to combat any form of discrimination between “second generation” migrant children and their native counterparts. By being raised with the same educational standards and being considered equal citizens of the Greek state, the “second generation” will feel and act as having exactly the same responsibilities and rights, avoiding the risk of being treated as second-class citizens.

86. Furthermore, a number of measures and actions for the integration of legally residing migrants and their families (including children) take place within the framework of the European Fund for the Integration (E.I.F.) of Third Country Nationals, with the Ministry of Interior being the responsible authority of the E.I.F. in Greece.

87. Indicatively, the Ministry of Interior has elaborated and implemented, among others, the following actions:

Annual Program 2009

- Elaboration of a study on the integration of second generation immigrants into Greek society.

Annual Program 2010

- Programme of Greek language and history courses for immigrant parents.
- Training and cultural programmes for under-aged immigrants who live in Societies for the Protection of minors provided outside the above hosting sites.
- Museum Education - cultural programme for immigrants’ children and organization of an exhibition.

88. In particular as regards migrant and asylum-seeking children who are victims of sale, trafficking and sexual and economic exploitation, the following protective legislative provisions should be mentioned (see in detail the National Report on the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, CRC/C/OPSC/GRC/1, p. 40- 44).

89. Pursuant to article 12 of Law 3064/2002, as supplemented by Presidential Decree 233/2003, (amended by Law 3875/2010, which ratified the United Nations Palermo Convention) the victims of the above-mentioned offences, referred to in articles 323, 323A, 349, 351 and 351A PC, receive protection for their life, physical integrity and personal and sexual freedom, where there is a grave danger to such values. They also receive, for as long as necessary, assistance for accommodation, sustenance, living conditions, care and psychological support.

90. Moreover, if the victims are non-nationals, a legal counsel and an interpreter are provided. During the protection period, non-national victims are not extradited and any issued decision for extradition is not executed. When victims are non-nationals, a procedure is also stipulated for repatriation, with the consent of the Prosecutor for children and following a report by the Commissioner for children.

91. Furthermore, an agreement on the protection of and assistance to victims of trafficking in children has been signed between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Albania, which was ratified by Law 3692/2008 (OG 173 A). This Agreement determines the procedure for the safe repatriation of children victims in article 14, which stipulates that children shall be returned by a voluntary, legally assisted and well-prepared procedure, according to the child's best interests. The responsible authority of the home country of the child shall implement special programmes for the reintegration of the child, covering protection, medical and psychological support, reintegration into the education system etc., as well as any other form of assistance dictated by the home country's laws on the protection of children. It shall also evaluate the welfare of the child victim and follow-up his/her life after reunification of the family or placement under alternative care in the home country.

92. The recent law on "ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the three Protocols thereto, and relevant provisions (Palermo Convention)" also provides for the following:

(a) Assistance afforded to victims pursuant to article 12 of Law 3064/2002, in conjunction with Presidential Decree 233/2003 is extended to the victims of the offences referred to in articles 323B (sex tourism) and 348A (child pornography), while the prescribed protection and assistance are afforded irrespective of whether the victim cooperates with prosecuting authorities or not. In addition, non-national victims shall not be extradited while protection or assistance is afforded.

(b) In the event of offences such as illegal entry in the country, possession and use of false travel documents, illegal work and prostitution etc. purported to be victims of the offences referred to in articles 323, 323A, 323B, 348A, 349, 351 and 351A PC, as well as articles 87§5-6 and 88 of Law 3386/2005, the Prosecutor for the magistrate court shall issue an act postponing any further action against the victim until the conclusion of the criminal proceedings for the offence committed against him/her, with the consent of the Prosecutor for the court of appeal. Following the irrevocable hearing of any of the above offences committed against the victim, if the decision is convicting, no criminal proceedings are initiated against the latter for the said acts.

(c) As regards the offences of illegal trafficking in immigrants under articles 87§5-6 and 88 of Law 3386/2005 (GG A 212), measures may be taken for the effective protection from possible reprisal or intimidation of the victim, the victim's family or substantial witnesses, even if any of the above acts has not been committed in the context of organized crime, pursuant to article 187§1 PC.

(d) The law specifies the definition of unaccompanied children, victims of trafficking in human beings and victims of illegal trafficking of immigrants, as well as the procedure for characterizing a person as a victim by act of the Prosecutor for the first instance court, following the opinion of special scientists (psychiatrist, psychologist or social worker). The characterization act is also issued, in special cases (threats against family members) and under certain conditions, when the victim does not cooperate with prosecuting authorities.

(e) The inter-ministerial committee on the coordination of the migration policy in Greece, operating pursuant to article 3§2 of Law 3386/2005, is assigned with taking initiatives on the training of the staff of competent agencies in methods to prevent illegal trafficking in immigrants by criminal organizations and in humanitarian treatment and safeguard of the rights of immigrants who were victims of illegal trafficking by criminal organizations and the development of programmes for raising public awareness on the phenomenon of illegal trafficking of immigrants.

(f) The issuance of residence permits for humanitarian reasons is stipulated under certain conditions for third-party nationals who were victims of trafficking in human beings.

(g) The reflection period for victims of trafficking in human beings or illegal trafficking of immigrants afforded by act of the prosecution authority is extended from one to three months and, especially for children, it may be extended for two more months pursuant to the child's best interests. During the reflection period, the persons referred to in the preceding paragraphs are not deported.

(h) Non-nationals characterized as victims of trafficking in human beings or illegal trafficking of immigrants may be removed from the list of unwanted non-nationals, if they were entered in such list because they were convicted for any of the offences of illegal entry in the country, possession and use of false travel documents or identities etc., illegal work and prostitution, committed during illegal trafficking.

Anti-crime policy

93. Fighting crime against minors is a priority in the field of security. Special competence to protect minors from victimization lies at strategic level within the Public Security Directorate of Police Headquarters and at operational level within the Minors Sections of the Security Directorates of Attica and Thessalonica. There are also Minors Offices in Patras, Achaia and in Heraklion, Crete. Nevertheless, all services and agencies of the Hellenic Police are committed to prevent and investigate crimes against minors. This task is implemented through a series of actions in the fields of legislation, police orders, strategic planning, training, and raising public awareness, and also through operational action to deal with specific cases.

- Apart from legislative measures, in the field of police orders, there have been laid down rules and memos of actions, which offer guidance to police staff on how to deal with and handle issues concerning minors, always in close cooperation with the judicial authorities, State and private bodies, organizations, services, etc. at a national and international level.
- In the field of strategic planning, within the framework of the Anti-crime Policy Plan (2010-2014), priority was given to the radical tackling of modern forms of criminality, placing special emphasis on the protection of minors. The underlying philosophy is to combine the consolidation of domestic security, with respect to human rights and mainly to the rights of children.
- Police personnel, particularly staff specialized in issues related to minors, attend training provided by the Police Academy and by other State and private bodies (NGOs) in Greece and abroad. Continuous training of Police Officers on handling criminal cases involving children was implemented through a series of actions such as the following:
 - A seminar on “Crimes against children through the usage of technology — combating child porn trafficking on the Internet” was held in Athens between 11 and 14 March 2008; it was organized by the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, INTERPOL, the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Microsoft and the NGO The Smile of the Child. 73 Police Officers - Interrogating Officers of the Hellenic Police and 17 Officers from 10 different countries participated in this seminar.
 - Between 5 and 16 May 2008, 182 officials of the Hellenic Police received special training (seven educational courses) on prevention of juvenile delinquency and protection of minors.

- Courses regarding missing minors cases, victimization of minors and juvenile delinquency have been included in the curriculum of the Police Academies.
- Concerning awareness raising of the citizens it is worth mentioning the following actions:
 - The webpage of the Hellenic Police Headquarters (www.astynomia.gr) includes instructions to citizens on how to avoid minors' victimization and prevent criminal acts against them.
 - The E-Crime Repression Section of Police is regularly organising one-day conferences addressed to the public concerning safe networking with emphasis on prevention of crimes against minors through the internet.
- On the operational level concerted efforts are constantly made to prevent and investigate any criminal action against minors. In this respect it is worth mentioning the following actions:
 - Regarding illegal adoptions, according to the data collected by the Direction for Public Security (DPS) of the Ministry of Citizen's Protection, in all such cases investigated by Police authorities, Bulgarian nationals were involved either as violators or as victims. Said data show that a number of Bulgarian criminal organizations search either for pregnant women or couples who have recently had a child and who are willing to proceed with an illegal adoption in Greece. They bring Bulgarian women in late pregnancy into Greece, to give birth in Greek hospitals, and they negotiate the adoption of newly born infants by childless couples. Greek Police authorities cooperate with Bulgarian authorities in their fight against this illegal activity, and during the last two years some significant results have been achieved. More specifically:
 - The mechanisms of information exchange have been improved.
 - Constructive cooperation between the competent Police authorities and the Liaison Officers of both countries was established.
 - Large-scale investigations involving officers of both countries and aiming at eliminating these criminal groups were conducted.
 - Concerning disappearances of minors, international experience has proven that they are usually associated with criminal acts against them. In this field, the actions and measures adopted and implemented include the following:
 - An Action Guide on handling cases of missing minors was set up and all Police services, as well as the competent Ministries and bodies, were provided with it and duly informed thereupon.
 - The Program "Amber Alert" for missing children is promoted and implemented by the NGO The Smile of the Child in cooperation with State Agencies and Institutions and also with private bodies. Within this programme, the role of the Police is crucial, as it is its competence to determine, on the basis of certain criteria, including risk of harm to the missing child, if and when an alert on missing children will be launched. Radio and TV stations are also actively involved as they are committed to interrupt their regular programs to broadcast spots for missing children at regular intervals until the end of the alert. The spots contain information about the victim and the incident and they are also shown on highways, airports, seaports and other transport facilities. Notifications concerning missing children are also transmitted through mobile phones, e-mail and fax.

- Superior Officers of the Police and of the DPS have participated in a meeting on the subject of "Disappearance of minors in Europe nowadays", which was held in Athens under the auspices of the Ministry of Interior and of the Ambassador of Belgium (29/10/2008); it included the official opening in Greece of "116000", the single EU hotline number for missing children. In Greece this hotline number is operated by the NGO "The Smile of the Child" and it has received full support by all State agencies.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 13, of the list of issues

94. In order to implement inclusive education for children with disabilities the Ministry of Education, Lifelong learning and Religious Affairs has scheduled five actions. These actions are being implemented through the Operational Program "Education and Lifelong Learning" and co-funded by the European Social Fund. The goal of these actions is to increase the quantity, quality and effectiveness of investments in human capital, in order to upgrade the Greek educational and vocational training system.

These actions are:

- "Evaluation of Special Education's structure – Creation of an electronic application through which the structure and the critical parameters of Special Education will be evaluated"

The objective of the action is an in-depth qualitative assessment of the existing structures in the area of Special Education. The aim of the programme is to identify critical problems in the functioning of these structures in order to improve their effectiveness and serve the real needs of the students with disabilities and their families. The action started in late 2010 and it is scheduled to end in the first trimester of 2013.

- "Program of specific educational support for the integration of children with disabilities or/and special educational needs"

According to the current institutional frame, Special Needs Education can be offered in special schools, in inclusive classes within the mainstream school, in mainstream classes with one-to-one support and at home. One-to-one support (Parallel teaching) is a teaching model that is often implemented in special education. This program is designed to provide a high quality training program for educators who are involved in parallel teaching so as to facilitate the implementation of inclusion practices. It will also provide scientific guidance and support to trainees (on-the-job training). The action will be implemented during 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years. The specialized educational support program will contribute to the social inclusion of students with disabilities in the school community and the social life.

- "Planning and creating educational and supervisory material for children with disabilities"

This action aims to create equal educational opportunities for students with disabilities by adapting textbooks used in the first two classes of primary school to make them accessible by students with various disabilities. The educational material will be available in both printed and digital format and – depending on the type of disability that is being targeted – it will be fully accessible with the use of the appropriate digital technology. The programme also involves the development of educational materials and special educational support services designed to prepare students with disabilities to attend school. Special teaching aids will also be produced for students with visual impairments. The first production of adapted material was completed for the school year 2010-2011.

- "Planning and creating an electronic data base for all children with disabilities or/and educational needs aged 4-25 years old and its use in the educational process"

The program involves the development of a special database, which will record all students with disabilities and/or special educational needs in primary and secondary education (aged 4-25 years) by type of disability or special educational needs, through a special web interface, in a reliable and objective way. The system will maintain data pertaining to:

- A Student Registration Number (Each student will receive a unique code number which will accompany him/her throughout his/her school life)
- Individual student data (demographics, family and social data)
- Documentation of student specificity (history, diagnostic data, medical considerations, etc.)
- Educational information (early intervention, school records, attendance, educational programs, aids and tools, progress, aptitudes, interests, attitudes, etc.)

The action was incorporated in the Operational Programme “Education and Lifelong Learning” in 2010 and it is being implemented.

- “Equipment of Special Schools through the Regional Operational Programs”

The aim of the initiative is to provide Special Education Schools with the necessary equipment so that all children with disabilities or special educational needs will be able to attend schools with adequate infrastructure. From May 2010 to June 2010, the Directorate of Special Education required from all Special Education Schools to identify their equipment needs. From July 2010 to November 2010 all these needs in equipment were codified, so that the supply of equipment can begin.

Also, during the school year 2010-2011, deaf students and students with hearing impairments who attend public schools of Primary and Secondary Education or private schools that offer special educational programmes were provided with hearing aids, electronic equipment and other learning aids in order to facilitate the learning process.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 14, of the list of issues

95. Regarding the death of the minor Alexis Grigoropoulos (December 2008), two police officers were arrested and charged with being involved in the incident in question. Both were tried by the First Instance Assize Court of Amfissa. One was found guilty of being the principal of the murder and was sentenced to life imprisonment and the other was found guilty of being an accomplice to said murder and was sentenced to ten years imprisonment (11/10/2011).

96. Regarding complaints concerning the conduct of police forces in demonstrations on the first anniversary of the above death, a preliminary investigation was ordered by the Head Prosecutor of Athens Prosecution Office.

97. In this respect it must be noted that in order to facilitate the gathering, recording, assessing and further forwarding of complaints, inter alia, for ill-treatment, against uniformed personnel of the security forces, an Office for dealing with Incidents of Arbitrariness was established by virtue of recent Law 3938/2011. It comes directly under the Minister of Citizen’s Protection, who may ask a special Committee established within this office to conduct disciplinary investigations in grave cases of ill-treatment.

Reply to the issues raised in part I, paragraph 15, of the list of issues

98. The “Aghia Varvara” institution is a unit of the 2nd Regional Health and Welfare System of Attica (it is a legal entity of public law) and operates as a decentralized and independent unit, with administrative and financial autonomy. At present, this institution provides accommodation for teenage girls (13-18 years old), whose parents have particular

health, social or financial problems or who are totally deprived of a proper family environment. In exceptional cases (either by court order or by order of the Public Prosecutor of Athens for Minors), the foundation may provide shelter to teenage girls who have committed offences in the past.

99. From 1998 to 2002, the institution of “Aghia Varvara” was responsible for carrying out the government project entitled Protection and Social Care of Street Children, aimed at providing accommodation, care and rehabilitation to the growing number of children in inner-city areas of Greece.

100. The aforementioned protection program for children living in the streets was implemented with the cooperation of the Ministries of Public Order and Justice. The realization of the program was assigned to the National Welfare Organization by decision ref. no.G2/oik4338/7-12-1998.

101. During the implementation of the program (i.e. from December 1998 until July 2002), 661 children were gradually hosted, among whom:

- 90 were delivered to their parents
- 47 were housed in Children’ Cities
- 22 were taken in charge by the Minors’ Police
- 502 left of their own will.

102. It is noted that, following a preliminary investigation, ordered by the Public Prosecutor’s Office of Athens on 25 May 2004, an investigation was carried out by the Sub-Directorate of Minors’ Protection/Directorate of Security of Attica, in order to ascertain whether criminal acts, such as abduction of minors, human trafficking and breach of duty against minors by the said Institution had taken place. The material collected was submitted to the competent authority on 18 October 2004. Subsequently the file was closed, according to the provisions of article 43 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, since the commission of a criminal act could not be substantiated.

103. The Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Mr Juan Miguel Petit, who visited Greece in November 2005, looked into the case of Aghia Varvara and makes explicit reference to this institution in his report (E/CN.4/2006/67/Add.3) about his mission to Greece. He mentions that the institution was an open facility and did not have any obligation to report on missing children. The Special Rapporteur notes that the programme of Aghia Varvara was established as an emergency measure to respond to an increasing number of street children. In this regard Mr Petit shares the conclusions drawn by the Deputy Ombudsman, who underlined several deficiencies of that program. He concludes that the case under review is to be taken as a lesson for the future to avoid repetition of similar mistakes.

104. In his Report Mr Petit refers also to many other good practices such as the children’s home “the Smile of the Child”, the “Anogeia Centre”, the “Filoxenia reception centre” in Thessaloniki, the bilateral agreement with Albania regarding protection and assistance of child victims of trafficking and exploitation (signed 27 February 2006) etc.

Part II

Reply to the issues raised in part II(a) of the list of issues

105. New Law 3860/2010 (O.G. A’ 111) “Improvements to the criminal legislation regarding juvenile offenders, prevention and combating of victimization and criminality of minors”.

106. More specifically, the above law provides for fairer criminal sanctions for juvenile offenders in accordance with the principles of proportionality and equal treatment.

107. The basic provisions regulating the protection of minors in employment are included in Law 1837/1989 on the “Protection of minors in employment and other provisions” (O.G. 85/A/23-3-89) as well as in Presidential Decree 62/98 on “Measures for the protection of young people at work, in compliance with European Union Directive 94/33/EC” (O.G. 67/A/26-3-98).

108. Moreover, article 74, para. 9 of Law 3863/2010 provides that special apprenticeship contracts of up to one (1) year’s duration may be concluded between employers and persons who are between 15 and 18 years old, in order for the latter to acquire skills. The said apprentices are paid with the 70 per cent of the minimum wage or salary provided for by the National General Labour Collective Agreement (EGSSE). For those who have completed 16 years of age, the apprenticeship may not exceed eight (8) hours per day and forty (40) hours per week. For those who have not completed 16 years of age, as well as those who are attending high schools, lyceums of all types or technical vocational schools, public or private, acknowledged by the State, the apprenticeship may not exceed six (6) hours per day and thirty (30) hours per week. The apprenticeship is not allowed to take place from 10 p.m. till 6 a.m. the next day. These persons are not subject to the provisions of labour law, except for those on health and safety of workers. Thus, a maximum period of time as well as a minimum wage for all these contracts is established. The general time limits in force for adolescents as well as the minimum age limit for employment are safeguarded.

109. This provision aims to facilitate young people’s access to the labour market so that they might acquire work experience.

110. Moreover, law 3850/2010 on “Ratification of the Code of Law on occupational health and safety” (O.G. A 84) codified the basic legislation on the health and safety of workers in our country to which belongs law 1837/1989 on “The protection of minors in employment and other provisions”

Reply to the issues raised in part II(b) of the list of issues

111. The Central Scientific Council for preventing and combating the risk of victimization and criminality of minors (K.E.S.A.T.H.E.A.) has been established with the following scope:

(a) It monitors the work performed by the Organizations on the Protection of Minors in Greece,

(b) It cooperates at a national level with organizations and services, university institutions, research and educational centres, public and private social and scientific offices, as well as NGOs whose scope relates to the prevention of the victimization of and criminality against minors, thus forming a unified network with them

(c) It collects and processes complaints on the abuse or abandonment of minors

(d) It organizes the application of new therapeutic and reformatory measures, through the Organizations on the Protection of Minors

(e) It promotes voluntarism with the purpose of raising awareness

(f) It coordinates the mechanisms for detecting child abuse in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs

(g) It keeps statistical data at national level.

Reply to the issues raised in part II(c) of the list of issues

112. Under the European Union's Daphne III Programme, the project under the title "Raising a Child through Prison Bars" began being implemented in December 2009. This project includes research and intervention for imprisoned mothers and children of imprisoned parents as well as training for prison facilities' personnel in order to facilitate family ties maintenance and to secure children's rights to preserve communication with the former during parents' imprisonment along with improving conditions for infants and toddlers (up to three years old) that inhabit within prison facilities with their imprisoned mothers. This project is being implemented in female prison facilities in Greece, Bulgaria and Romania and is coordinated by the Institute of Child Health in Greece. For the part of the project that is implemented in Greece, a number of actions have already taken place during years 2010 and 2011 such as support groups for imprisoned mothers in female prisons of Elaionas, Thiva and Korydallos, Athens, support groups for imprisoned parents' children, "special day" events in which children were brought into prison facilities and met their mothers in the context of creative activities organized accordingly and so on. More information on this project and its actions is available at the project's web-page: www.mothers-in-prison.eu, administered by the Institute of Child Health.

- Furthermore, a number of projects for implementation within the general context of the European Union's National Strategic Reference Framework have been submitted to the relevant agencies of the Hellenic Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity and are currently under consultation between stakeholders. Such projects concern the safeguarding of children's right and especially highly vulnerable children's groups, the strengthening of the provisions of the current system of services provided at present in Greece for child victims of abuse or neglect and the improvement of the performance of child care and child protection services in Greece including relevant data collection and surveillance mechanisms. Such projects under discussion/consultation are the following:
 - Development of a unified national protocol for diagnosis and certification towards legal authorities of victimization of children submitted by the Institute of Child Health.
 - Developing a number of pilot multidisciplinary and multi-sectorial (forensic psycho-social) units for the diagnosis and certification towards legal authorities of detected or reported cases of child abuse and neglect submitted by the Institute of Child Health.
 - Organizing a national Observatory for Children's Labour in order to provide reliable estimations on the extent and constant surveillance of this particular phenomenon as well as implementing actions to combat its occurrence and various implications submitted by the Institute of Child Health.

Social Care Units for Children and Adolescents

113. The Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity through the Social Care Units protects children growing up in an environment unsuitable for their physical and mental health and are deprived of family care (orphans, abused children, children whose parents face physical or mental health problems, children found in crisis situations, unprotected and abandoned, street children). A wide range of social and welfare measures are applied, mainly through the Children Custody Centres and the Children's Cities, where children aged 5 to 16 are admitted and hosted.

114. The Social Care Units that exist for hosting children are 19 Children's Custody Centres – Children's Cities and the number of the children hosted is 908.

The hosting capacity of the above mentioned buildings is 996 children.

115. By virtue of Joint Ministerial Decision 49540/2011 (O.G. 877 B) “Coordination of activities and services for child protection”, a network has been established under the name “ORESTIS” under the auspices of the Central Scientific Council for Preventing and Combating Victimization and Juvenile Delinquency (K.E.S.A.T.H.E.A.).

116. In this network all the competent Services of the Ministries of Health and Social Solidarity and Justice, Transparency and Human Rights, providing social attention, care, solidarity and protection to minors at risk and juvenile offenders are enlisted and interconnected electronically. The Network may cooperate with other international or national networks and institutions whose competencies are harmonized and their activities serve the purposes and goals of the “ORESTIS” Network.

Domestic violence

117. Women’s and girls’ fundamental rights are seriously threatened when gender discrimination is aggravated by other kinds of discrimination such as that based on nationality, physical ability, social isolation, etc.

118. Through its Counselling Centres, the General Secretariat for Gender Equality (G.S.G.E.) offers consistent and reliable information and publishes related information brochures.

119. In cooperation with international NGOs and other organizations such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Greek Council for Refugees, G.S.G.E. develops actions for women and girl immigrants and asylum seekers, who are more vulnerable and at risk of experiencing domestic violence, trafficking, etc.

120. The G.S.G.E. has cooperated with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Ministry of Citizens’ Protection for the preparation of a Manual in favour of women refugees of all ages, addressed to employees in immigration services. The official presentation of the Manual (entitled “Guidelines for protecting Women and girls during first entry /reception in Greece and the asylum procedure) was made during a conference organized on 20 June 2001, on the occasion of the World Day for Refugees.

Reply to the issues raised in part II(d) of the list of issues

121. Greece has recently ratified the following instruments, which are relevant to the protection of the rights of the child:

- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Law 3875/2010)
- Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Law 3727/2008)
- Greece has also ratified the Hague Convention of 29 May 1993 on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (Law 3765/2009)

122. By virtue of Presidential Decree 9/2011, a Minors’ Protection Section dedicated to the investigation of crimes committed against children through the internet and other

electronic or digital means of communication or storage was established within the Subdirectorate of Electronic Crime of the Service of Fiscal Police and E-Crime.

Part III

Reply to the issues raised in part III, paragraph 1, of the list of issues

123. The statistical office of the Ministry of Education, Lifelong Learning and Religious Affairs keeps information for the 13 regions of Greece. The regions are divided into three categories: urban areas, which include Attiki and Central Macedonia, rural areas, which include the regions of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace, Peloponnisos, Thessaly, Continental Greece, Western Greece, Epirus, Western Macedonia, and island areas, which include the islands of the North and South Aegean, Crete and the Ionian Islands. Below is the statistical data covering the years 2008, 2009 and 2010. Furthermore, pre-school education involves children 4-6 years old, primary education involves children 6-12 years old and secondary education involves children 12-18 years old.

- (i) For the school year 2007-2008 (September 2007 - June 2008)

Percentage of children in pre-school education

	<i>Boys</i>		<i>Girls</i>	
Urban areas				
Total	20,250	50.40%	19,926	49.60%
Rural areas				
Total	19,793	50.53%	19,378	49.47%
Island areas				
Total	5,741	50.00%	5,741	50.00%

Percentage of children completing primary education

	<i>Boys</i>		<i>Girls</i>	
Urban areas				
Total	21,398	48.84%	22,418	51.16%
Rural areas				
Total	16,462	48.77%	17,290	51.23%
Island areas				
Total	5,923	48.69%	6,241	51.31%

Percentage of children completing secondary education

	<i>Boys</i>		<i>Girls</i>	
Urban areas				
Total	7,988	45.59%	9,535	54.41%
Rural areas				
Total	4,831	44.63%	5,993	55.37%
Island areas				
Total	1,240	44.19%	1,566	55.81%

124. The average number of teachers in pre-school and primary education is 13.27 (total number of teachers in pre-school and primary education 68.714) and the average number of

teachers in secondary education is 9.67 (total number of teachers in secondary education 83,260). Please note that the average number of children per class in pre-school and primary education is 20 and the number of children per class in secondary education is 25.

Number of foreign children completing pre-school education

	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
Urban areas		
Total	2,218	2,123
Rural areas		
Total	1,285	1,205
Island areas		
Total	682	670

Number of foreign children completing primary education

	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
Urban areas		
Total	2,663	2,495
Rural areas		
Total	1,502	1,260
Island areas		
Total	741	641

Number of foreign children completing secondary education

	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
Urban areas		
Total	884	1,067
Rural areas		
Total	362	429
Island areas		
Total	110	195

(ii) For the school year 2008-2009 (September 2008-June 2009)

Percentage of children in pre-school education

	<i>Boys</i>		<i>Girls</i>	
Urban areas				
Total	18,687	50.96%	17,984	49.04%
Rural areas				
Total	18,981	50.99%	18,244	49.01%
Island areas				
Total	6,532	50.51%	6,399	49.49%

Percentage of children completing primary education

		<i>Boys</i>		<i>Girls</i>
Urban areas				
Total	22,889	48.45%	24,355	51.55%
Rural areas				
Total	17,177	48.89%	17,957	51.11%
Island areas				
Total	6,861	48.29%	7,347	51.71%

Percentage of children completing secondary education

		<i>Boys</i>		<i>Girls</i>
Urban areas				
Total	12,083	45.44%	14,511	54.56%
Rural areas				
Total	8,285	45.37%	9,975	54.63%
Island areas				
Total	2,801	43.59%	3,625	56.41%

125. The average number of teachers in pre-school and primary education is 14.10 (total number of teachers in pre-school and primary education 71,600) and the average number of teachers in secondary education is 9.15 (total number of teachers in secondary education 84,248). Please note that the average number of children per class in pre-school and primary education is 20 and the number of children per class in secondary education is 25.

Number of foreign children completing pre-school education

	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
Urban areas		
Total	2,084	1,950
Rural areas		
Total	1,519	1,435
Island areas		
Total	777	732

Number of foreign children completing primary education

	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
Urban areas		
Total	2,544	2,254
Rural areas		
Total	1,472	1,291
Island areas		
Total	798	740

Number of foreign children completing secondary education			
	<i>Boys</i>		<i>Girls</i>
Urban areas			
Total	1,176		1,518
Rural areas			
Total	503		541
Island areas			
Total	214		237

(iii) For the school year 2009-2010 (September 2009-June 2010)

Percentage of children in pre-school education				
	<i>Boys</i>			<i>Girls</i>
Urban areas				
Total	20,974	50.85%	20,274	49.15%
Rural areas				
Total	21,664	51.33%	20,540	48.67%
Island areas				
Total	7,173	50.60%	7,002	49.40%

Percentage of children completing primary education				
	<i>Boys</i>			<i>Girls</i>
Urban areas				
Total	23,337	48.53%	24,748	51.47%
Rural areas				
Total	17,131	48.45%	18,224	51.55%
Island areas				
Total	6,690	48.54%	7,093	51.46%

Percentage of children completing secondary education				
	<i>Boys</i>			<i>Girls</i>
Urban areas				
Total	13,255	45.85%	15,655	54.15%
Rural areas				
Total	9,290	45.29%	11,223	54.71%
Island areas				
Total	2,893	43.65%	3,734	56.35%

126. The average number of teachers in pre-school and primary education is 12.94 (total number of teachers in pre-school and primary education 78.023) and the average number of teachers in secondary education is 9.60 (total number of teachers in secondary education 87.640). Please note that the average number of children per class in pre-school and primary education is 20 and the number of children per class in secondary education is 25.

Number of foreign children completing pre-school education		
	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
Urban areas		
Total	4,931	4,502
Rural areas		
Total	2,957	2,733
Island areas		
Total	1,799	1,714
Number of foreign children completing primary education		
	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
Urban areas		
Total	2,859	2,460
Rural areas		
Total	1,561	1,401
Island areas		
Total	822	708
Number of foreign children completing secondary education		
	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
Urban areas		
Total	1,492	1,547
Rural areas		
Total	631	627
Island areas		
Total	291	337

(iv) For the school year 2010-2011 (September 2010 – June 2011)

Percentage of children in pre-school education				
		<i>Boys</i>		<i>Girls</i>
Urban areas				
Total	30,233	51.03%	29,018	48.97%
Rural areas				
Total	27,535	51.41%	26,028	48.59%
Island areas				
Total	9,901	51.11%	9,472	48.89%
Percentage of children completing primary education				
		<i>Boys</i>		<i>Girls</i>
Urban areas				
Total	24,673	51.33%	23,398	48.67%
Rural areas				

		<i>Boys</i>		<i>Girls</i>
Total	17,711	51.82%	16,469	48.18%
Island areas				
Total	7,154	51.06%	6,858	48.94%

Percentage of children completing secondary education

		<i>Boys</i>		<i>Girls</i>
Urban areas				
Total	13,791	45.10%	16,789	54.90%
Rural areas				
Total	9,496	45.16%	11,533	54.84%
Island areas				
Total	3,181	44.12%	4,029	55.88%

127. The average number of teachers in pre-school and primary education is 16.38 (total number of teachers in pre-school and primary education 86,399) and the average number of teachers in secondary education is 9.01 (total number of teachers in secondary education 82,885). Please note that the average number of children per class in pre-school and primary education is 20 and the number of children per class in secondary education is 25.

Number of foreign children completing pre-school education

		<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
Urban areas			
Total		5,429	4,896
Rural areas			
Total		3,401	3,051
Island areas			
Total		1,944	1,724

Number of foreign children completing primary education

		<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
Urban areas			
Total		3,035	2,731
Rural areas			
Total		1,652	1,404
Island areas			
Total		900	790

Number of foreign children completing secondary education

		<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
Urban areas			
Total		1,919	1,962
Rural areas			
Total		821	762

	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
Island areas		
Total	344	352

Reply to the issues raised in part III, paragraph 2, of the list of issues

128. The Labour Inspectorate Body (S.E.P.E) is the control mechanism par excellence of the Ministry of Employment and Social Protection, established to control the enforcement of labour legislation.

129. Pursuant to article 6 of Law 2639 of 1998 the Labour Inspectorate Body’s main role, inter alia, is:

- (i) To supervise and control the enforcement of the provisions of labour legislation
- (ii) To investigate, detect and prosecute non-compliance with labour legislation, according to the provisions in force
- (iii) To investigate, detect and prosecute illegal activity, in parallel with but independently from the police authorities
- (iv) To investigate the insurance cover of employees, independently from insurance organizations

130. The rights of minors pertaining to employment fall within the area of competence of the Labour Inspectorate Body. More specifically, the services of the Labour Inspectorate Body are responsible for issuing booklets, after a medical opinion has been formulated, in order for minors, above the age of 15, to be employed in enterprises. The main purpose is not so much to impose fines, as to record reliably the situation in place concerning minor employees, achieve compliance with the provisions in force and plan better practices.

131. Within the framework of the controlling role of the Labour Inspectorate Body, the competent inspection bodies forbid the continuation of employment in cases of employment of minors in adverse conditions for their physical or mental health. Imprisonment penalties and fines are provided for employers and their representatives who violate the provisions on the protection of minor employees.

132. In 2010, pursuant to Law 1837/89 on the Protection of minors in employment and other provisions, as replaced by Law 3850/2010 (O.G. 84/A’/02-06-2010) and is in force, 1,463 minors’ booklets were administered, after a health examination conducted by doctors of I.K.A. (the largest Social Security Organization in Greece). 781 of these booklets concerned boys and 682 concerned girls.

133. The following chart depicts the number of minors’ booklets validated by the local services of Social Inspection and the sanctions imposed for illegal employment of minors between 2008 and 2010.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Validated Minors’ Booklets</i>	<i>Lawsuits for Illegal Employment of Minors</i>	<i>Fines for Illegal Employment of Minors</i>
2010	1,462	3	4
2009	1,752	0	17
2008	2,775	15	31

134. In addition to the aforementioned, we would like to add that the legislation currently in force deals substantially with the protection of minors, covering almost all relevant

issues, as for instance the time limits of employment, remuneration, employees' leave, working conditions which employers should provide to minor employees, etc. It should also be stressed that Greek legislation is particularly progressive and protective towards minors. However, there is a need for constant vigilance as minors are severely affected by existing social problems. The protection of every child's "human value" is a fundamental constitutional and legal obligation for all the bodies of the State. The protection of minors is also an obligation for employers and parents and a moral duty for every citizen.

Reply to the issues raised in part III, paragraph 3, of the list of issues

135. Relevant data are included in Part I, paragraph 4.2. Greece may provide additional statistical data during the dialogue with the Committee.

Reply to the issues raised in part III, paragraph 4, of the list of issues

136. To date, there is not yet a permanent centralized mechanism for regularly collecting administrative data on child abuse and neglect reports. However, a number of steps have been made towards mapping the actual extent of the phenomenon as well as for facilitating the periodic collection of such data both on an aggregated and individuated basis. Such steps include the following:

137. A number of field research activities have been implemented in order to map the fundamental features of the phenomenon of child abuse and neglect in Greece, thus providing a better picture of its actual occurrence and characteristics (in terms of aggregated data).

138. A number of other research and intervention activities have been undertaken in order to provide data, either aggregative or individualized, on administrative level of child abuse and reports on neglect cases and their development (management, treatment, juridical prosecution, provision of therapeutic and social support, referrals to specialized services etc). Such initiatives are described below:

139. Under the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technology (EU FP7), Axis "Health", under the title Balkan Epidemiological Study on Child Abuse and Neglect (BECAN) was released in October 2009. Apart from its part on field survey regarding self-reports of children and their parents or caregivers, this project entails also a parallel case-base surveillance study, viz. recording of cases of child abuse and neglect that have been reported to or detected by authoritative organizations or agencies in all participant countries. In view of the radically different systems of child protection in these countries as well as differentiated structure of authoritative agencies, this study will be carried out via a unified data extraction form through a standardized protocol in order for data to be compatible and comparable between participant countries. As the Institute of Child Health in Greece coordinates this project, this study is also ongoing at present in Greece regarding cases of child abuse or neglect detected or reported by a vast variety of organizations and agencies of different legal status and overall functions during calendar year 2010.

140. Another resource of administrative data regarding child abuse and neglect in Greece at the time is the recent initiative of the National Centre for Social Solidarity named in abbreviation in Greek "EKKA" (Central Welfare organization of the Hellenic Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity) to map conditions applied regarding abandonment of infants and toddlers in Hospital Obstetrics' Departments of well as requests for entering children into some form of residential or similar care. Such research was conducted by EKKA on 2010, is of ultimate importance since it occurred after the outbreak of the current fiscal and social crisis prevailing in Greece, which inevitably influenced such parameters as infant abandonment and requests for placement of children. According to this research in

September 2010, infants and toddlers have been abandoned after birth, temporarily placed in several Pediatric Hospitals while efforts were made for their permanent placement in some more appropriate residential or alternative care facility. Another important resource of improving data collection along with facilitating cooperation between organizations and agencies regardless of their legal status or the system in which they are initially embedded, is the initiatives of networking that had been taken up by various key stakeholders in order to improve performance on the particular subject matter of child abuse and neglect. Such initiatives include:

(i) The 2010 initiative of Ministry of Justice and its supervised authoritative body “KESATHEA” to organize the “ORESTIS” network of organizations and agencies that regularly deal with juvenile criminal or delinquent behaviour, child abuse and neglect and child care and protection.

(ii) The 2011 initiative of the Institute of Child Health within the overall context of the aforementioned above project under the title Balkan Epidemiological Study on Child Abuse and Neglect – B.E.C.A.N. funded by the E.U.’s Seventh Frame Programme for Research and Technology, to form the informal “BECAN-network” of organizations and agencies that regularly deal with cases of child abuse and neglect. In that particular network initially 790 organizations and agencies that apparently work in the subject matter of child abuse and neglect were identified in Greece and were invited to join in; from those, to date more than 65 have signed the relevant Memorandum of Collaboration and 80 other organizations or professionals have been registered as members of the BECAN forum; however, it should be noted that this process is still ongoing with consultation continuing with a number of other key stakeholders in order for them to actively participate as well. Moreover, the BECAN network has held three assembly meetings in Athens and one in Thessalonica during 2011 resulting in five active Working Groups on particular issues of great interest including child abuse and neglect prevention and general public sensitization and awareness raising, reform of the existing legal framework and legal immunity of professionals, development of a standardized protocol for diagnosis and certification of child abuse and neglect cases, development and release of a manual/guide for professionals and improving current provisos for epidemiological surveillance of reported or detected cases of child abuse and neglect. Additionally, members of this network are currently in discussions about applying a common form of report – registering of each and every case of child abuse and neglect that they deal with in order to gradually produce a more concrete and reliable databank of nationwide information regarding the frequency and features of this phenomenon in Hellenic society.

(iii) The 2011 initiative of the National Center for Social Solidarity named in abbreviation in Greek “EKKA” (central welfare organization of the Hellenic Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity) to form an informal network of municipalities’ and prefectures’ social services regarding child care and protection in order to facilitate their smooth functioning within the context of the greater “Kallikratis” reform of public administration in Greece that allows more levels of authorization in regional authorities.

(iv) The 2011 initiative of the NGO named “Association for Mental Health of Children and Adolescents”, in Greek abbreviated as “EPSYPE”, to form a national network of organizations and professionals to tackle bullying and violence in general within the school context. This initiative has so far gained support from various key stakeholders, thus becoming its founding members, such as the Greek Ombudsman for the Rights of the Child, the General Secretariat of Youth and the Pedagogic Institute of the Hellenic Ministry of Education, the Institute of Child Health, the

Pedagogic Department and the University Clinic of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry of the National and Kapodestrian University of Athens, the Hellenic Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists and others. The entire initiative was communicated to the Presidency of the Hellenic Republic and the President Mr. Karolos Papoulias agreed to take this network and its targets under his auspices. The network direct aims are to implement large-scale training programs for children, schoolteachers and parents to tackle violence in the context of schools in Greece as well as facilitating research and exchange of “good practices” between stakeholders and raise awareness of that phenomenon in the wider civil society.

All the aforementioned initiatives are anticipated to substantially improve data collection and the multiplicity and effectiveness and efficiency of interventions regarding the successful prevention and treatment of the phenomenon of child abuse and neglect in Greece in the directly foreseeable future.

Reply to the issues raised in part III, paragraph 5, of the list of issues

141. Number of children with disabilities attending regular schools:

<i>School year (September-June)</i>	<i>Primary education</i>	<i>Secondary education</i>	<i>Children with disabilities attending regular school having help in classroom by special personnel</i>
2007-2008	14,755	1,654	130
2008-2009	18,705	1,694	172
2009-2010	18,906	2,706	139
2010-2011	19,922	4,183	850

Number of children with disabilities attending special schools:

<i>School year (September-June)</i>	<i>Primary education</i>	<i>Secondary education</i>
2007-2008	3,400	3,259
2008-2009	3,642	3,301
2009-2010	3,748	3,873
2010-2011	3,583	4,073

142. The above data indicate a clear and steady progress in the matter of inclusive education, as a growing number of disabled children attend regular schools year by year, where they get better individual support when necessary.