



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
GENEVA

Ref. No. 6170.7(24)/1/AS 104

NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and, following the latter's Note Verbale, dated 22 November 2013, on the issue of preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age as a human rights concern, has the honour to submit the attached response by the Greek Ministry of Health.

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

AD



Geneva, January 20, 2014

To: **The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**
Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
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Att.: 10 pages

OHCHR REGISTRY

23 JAN 2014

Recipients 16

(R.R.D.)

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- 1 -

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GREEK REPUBLIC

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH & QUALITY OF LIFE

DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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EXTREMELY URGENT

Athens 13/01/2014

Ref Y1/G.P.119030

To the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
D4 Directorate of Human Rights
3, Akadimias street, Athens 10671

Re: " Questionnaire by the High Commissioner for Human Rights with regard to preventing child mortality"

Ref: The Ref. no AS61188/19.12.2013 document by the Foreign Ministry.

In answer to the captioned document within our competence and according to data provided by the Directorates of Nutrition and Primary Health Care of this Ministry, please be advised as follows:

Data on the health status of children:

The Hellenic Statistical Authority (EL.STAT.) collects data on the development of the Greek population and morbidity by age group.

ΜΕΤΑΦΡΑΣΤΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟΥ ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΩΝ, ΑΘΗΝΑ
HELLENIC REPUBLIC, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRES, TRANSLATION BUREAU, ATHENS
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- 2 -

#F.092.22

In addition, Ministerial Decree A2a/oik.5648 "On introduction of Child Health Booklet" (OJ 1425/B/27/11/1976), regulates matters relating to compliance to Child Health Booklet regulations (V.Y.P), further development of the institution as well as securing terms and conditions of its use and optimum utilisation by health agencies and services.

The management of issues related to the distribution and disposal of Child Health Booklet to competent bodies and families is regulated by Ref n° Y3g/G.F.8/G.P.oik .102297/18.10.2012 (ADA¹: V430TH-KDCH). The comprehensive and timely completion of Child Health Booklet contributes to the early diagnosis and timely intervention as well as protection of the child' health.

Article 24 of L.4213/2013 (Official Journal Issue A 261/9.12.2013) refers to the recognition of rare diseases in Greece, provides the definition of rare diseases, recognises ORPHANET as the official database for these disorders, provides for the development of a relevant national action plan and the setting up of a permanent "National Committee for Rare diseases in KE.S.Y.²" as well as authorization to issue Joint Ministerial Decrees regulating individual specific issues, such as the recording of rare diseases.

Reducing infant and child mortality, as well as preventing serious diseases by vaccination:

According to the article 6 JMD n°. EMP5 (OJ 3054/B/11/18/2012), costs for vaccinations of children under the National Immunization Programme and prenatal examinations, shall be borne solely by Social Security Institutes.

Our country implements the "National Immunization Programme for Children & Adolescents 2011"(ADA: 45PS6TH - TH0K). The vaccines included in the National Immunization Programme are provided free to the poor and uninsured under MD 139491/2006), "Determining the conditions, criteria and procedures for access to the health care system for uninsured and financially weak citizens" (OJ 1747/B) by the Directorate of Public Health of the Ministry of Health.

¹ Reference n° for Internet uploading

² Central Health Council