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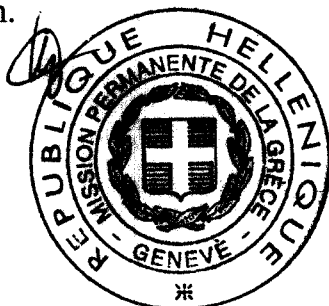
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NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and, with reference to the latter's Note, dated October 3rd 2008, bearing the number GVA 0884, has the honour to provide attached herewith ***the reply of the Greek Government*** to the questionnaire on cash transfer programmes addressed to Governments by the Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty Ms Magdalena Sepulveda.

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



Geneva, December 18th, 2008

To:

Office of the High
Commissioner for Human Rights
UN Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty
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Questionnaire on cash Transfer programmes addressed to Governments by the Independent Expert on the question of Human Rights and Extreme Poverty

In reply to the document, drafted by the *Independent Expert on the question of Extreme poverty and human rights, Ms. Magdalena Sepulveda*, regarding the financial support programmes for households living in poverty, the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations Office in Geneva has the honour to inform the Office of the High Commissioner about the programmes that are being implemented by the Ministry of Employment and Social Protection. The Ministry of Employment and Social Protection is competent to coordinate the drafting of the National Strategy Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion. The most recent Report refers to the period 2008-2010.

1. Pensioners' Social Solidarity Allowance (EKAS)

Aiming at combating poverty and ensuring a sufficient income for the elderly people and low income pensioners, in particular, as regards the statutory financial support programmes for such population groups, the Greek social security system provides for the Pensioners' Social Solidarity Allowance (EKAS).

This allowance, first established by Law 2434/1996 «Policy measures for employment and vocational education and training and other provisions» (paragraph 3, article 20), aims at financially supporting low income pensioners and constitutes a non-contributory monthly benefit for elderly people and survivor pensioners who have attained the age of 60, except for the children who receive a pension due to the death of their parent, wherefor no age limit is required, as well as for the disability pensioners of all insurance bodies of main insurance (except for the Agricultural Insurance Organization), regardless of the age limit.

III. (ii) 7.

The Pensioners' Social Solidarity Allowance is wholly financed by the State Budget.

III. (ii) 10, 12 and 13.

For the fulfilment of the aim of EKAS, income criteria have also been set (income from pensions, individual taxable and family taxable income) which must be met cumulatively by the pensioner and be readjusted every year.

The income taken into consideration in respect of the right of a pensioner to receive the EKAS, is the annual income (excluding the amount of EKAS which may have been paid) declared every year in the income tax return for the previous year, as from the year the pensioner can receive the allowance.

For example, for granting the EKAS for 2008 the total net annual income from pensions (main pensions, supplementary pensions and benefits), salaries, wages and other allowances granted to the salaried person, as declared in the income tax return for 2007, may not exceed 7,750.42€, the total individual taxable income of the pensioner-beneficiary of the EKAS may not exceed 9,042.16€ and his/her total annual family taxable income may not exceed 14,070.23€.

The payable amount of EKAS in these cases is as follows:

AMOUNT OF EKAS	AMOUNT OF INCOME
230.00€	Up to 7,058.41€
172.50€	From 7,058.42€ to 7,335.25€
115.00€	From 7,335.26€ to 7,519.74€
57.50€	From 7,519.75€ to 7,750.42€

The following table shows the amounts of EKAS per year and the percentage of allowance increase for the period 2003-2008:

PERIOD	AMOUNT OF EKAS	PERCENTAGE OF ANNUAL INCREASE
1/1/2003 -31/12/2003	111.18 83.39 55.59 28.80 According to the income of the pensioner	15.2 %
1/1/2004 -31/12/2004	141.20 105.90 70.60 35.30 According to the income of the pensioner	7%
1/1/2005 -31/12/2005	149.67 112.25 74.84 37.42 According to the income of the pensioner	6%
1/1/2006 -31/12/2006	160.15 120.11 80.08 40.04 According to the income of the pensioner	7%
1/1/2007 -31/12/2007	190.15 146.36 97.58 48.79 According to the income of the pensioner	18.73%
1/1/2008 -31/12/2008	230.00 172.50 115.00 57.50 According to the income of the pensioner	21%

III. (ii) 9.

We present below two tables containing data about the pensioners who receive the EKAS, on the one hand, from the Social Security Organization for the Self-employed (OAEE) and, on the other hand, from the Social Security Institution (IKA), which is the largest insurance fund for employees.

A. Data about the EKAS of Pensioners – OAEE

The following table shows the existing data kept with the OAEE (Social Security Organization for the Self-employed).

YEAR	NUMBER OF EKAS PENSIONERS		ANNUAL EXPENDITURE FOR EKAS
	MEN	WOMEN	
2003	48,323	55,873	169,537,039
2004	48,907	54,667	205,938,646
2005	49,550	55,748	231,627,049
2006	49,476	56,023	249,400,463
2007	47,987	55,040	291,794,987
2008	46,746	53,082	295,927,820

It should be mentioned that the above data are not detailed in respect of the pensioners of the said Organization. The expenditure for 2008 was calculated until November.

B. Data about the EKAS of the Pensioners – IKA-ETAM [Social Security Institution-Unified Insurance Fund for Employees]

The attached tables concern the EKAS according to the data kept with IKA-ETAM.

Table 1: Number of beneficiaries and monthly amount of EKAS (for December) and annual amount of EKAS per year for years 2003 to 2007 inclusive

YEAR	DECEMBER		ANNUAL AMOUNT OF EKAS
	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES	MONTHLY AMOUNT OF EKAS	
2003	225,173	21,736,352.15	277,927,122
2004	237,063	29,120,813.20	434,376,615
2005	235,907	30,712,567.49	468,928,591
2006	234,146	32,626,306.52	558,344,306
2007	232,139	39,387,975.12	591,069,983

Table 2: Number of beneficiaries and monthly amount of EKAS for October 2008 and annual amount of EKAS paid by IKA-ETAM and by Funds merged therein. By the recent insurance regulations, other Funds, wherefor there are data about 2008, have also been merged into IKA-ETAM.

	OCTOBER 2008		ANNUAL AMOUNT OF EKAS
	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES	MONTHLY AMOUNT OF	

		EKAS	
IKA-ETAM	219,988	43,329,050.01	674,019,512
MERGED FUNDS	1,578	266,025.08	
TOTAL	221,566	43,595,075.09	

The Annex includes detailed tables for the period from 2005 to 2008 regarding the number of beneficiaries of EKAS by sex and age of old-age, disability and survivor pensioners respectively.

2. Pension of uninsured elderly people

The Agricultural Insurance Organization (OGA) provides pensions and health care to uninsured persons on certain conditions. The amount of pension received by such persons is the same with the amount paid to pensioners receiving a basic social assistance pension from the OGA (Law 4169/1961).

For 2008 the basic pension of the OGA is 330.00€ (for a beneficiary without dependants).

For the pensioners of the Branch of Main Insurance of the said Organization who are at the same time entitled to the basic social assistance pension, the amount of the basic social assistance pension for 2008 is reduced by 24% to 250.8€.

The beneficiaries of the basic social assistance pension in 2008 are 792,000 persons. The amount of pension increase for 2007 was 50.00€ while for 2008 it was another 52.25€.

3. Rent subsidy programme (III).

The Workers' Housing Organization (OEK) founded in 1954 is a Public Law Entity supervised by the Ministry of Employment and Social Protection. The OEK is the main housing body for the workers of the country and is also the main body responsible for implementing social housing policy.

OEK during 2003-2008 has developed and currently develops actions that concern the financial support for workers and pensioners of the country, who are beneficiaries of the Organization, in order to increase their real income. More specifically:

The beneficiaries of the Workers' Housing Organization receive a financial assistance (rent allowance) in order to meet the house rent expenditure. The programme is annual and all workers and pensioners of the OEK having a low income, whose limit is fixed every year by a relevant ministerial decision, can participate therein.

For 2003 the maximum net family income limit for pensioners and individual persons aged at least sixty (60) or couples where one of the spouses has attained the age of sixty (60), as well as for new couples, was fixed at 9,150€, while for the other beneficiaries it was 8,350€ and for 2004 it was 9,900€ and 9,000€ respectively.

For 2005 and 2006 the maximum net family income limit was fixed for all categories of beneficiaries at 11,000€.

For 2007 the maximum net family income limit was fixed for all categories of beneficiaries at 11,500€.

For 2008 the annual net family income limit has been fixed for all categories of beneficiaries at 12,000€.

(i) 2. Legal framework: Law 1849/1989 'Extension and supplementation of the housing programmes of the Workers' Housing Organization and other provisions' (Official Gazette 113/A/8-5-1989), 2224/1994 (Official Gazette 112/A/6-7-1994) and 2874/2000 (Official Gazette 286/A/29-12-2000).

3. -4. -5. The programme shall be drawn up by the competent agencies of the Workers' Housing Organization in collaboration with the Directorate for Housing Assistance of the Ministry of Employment, after the beneficiaries' needs and the financial means of the Workers' Housing Organization have been taken into consideration, and shall be approved by ministerial decision issued upon recommendation by the Board of Directors of the Workers' Housing Organization. The said ministerial decision shall specify the terms and conditions of participation in the programme and the amounts of subsidy.

The implementation of the programme shall be ensured not only by the Workers' Housing Organization but also by the Directorate for Housing Assistance of the Ministry of Employment, which shall also contribute to the solution of any problems that may arise during the implementation.

(ii)

6. All beneficiaries throughout the country who meet the required criteria shall be entitled to participate in the programme.

7. The subsidy comes from funds of the Workers' Housing Organization derived from contributions of workers being 1% of their wages and, of their employers, being 0.75% of the wages of the workers employed by them. Moreover, the state budget provides for an annual grant to the Workers' Housing Organization amounting to 293,470.29€.

8. For the implementation of the programme the Workers' Housing Organization paid in total 51,666,434€ for 2003, 72,445,201€ for 2004, 65,679,614€ for 2005, 151,942,702€ for 2006, 183,609,904€ for 2007 and 69,550,588€ for the first semester of 2008.

9. The number of beneficiaries who received subsidy within the context of this programme was 39,918 for 2003, 58,263 for 2004, 64,044 for 2005, 81,784 for 2006, 93,784 for 2007, while for 2008 the programme is still in progress (it commenced on 7/7/2008).

All beneficiaries of the Workers' Housing Organization who meet the required criteria, regardless of age, nationality, etc., can participate in the rent subsidy programme. Mostly, elderly pensioners and low-income workers participate therein.

10. All beneficiaries of the Workers' Housing Organization who meet the required criteria, provenly pay a rent and whose annual net family income does not exceed the limits set from time to time, can participate in the rent subsidy programme.

The beneficiaries of the Workers' Housing Organization are all workers having a private law employment relationship with their employer, are insured for a pension with a body of salaried workers' main insurance as long as both workers and their employers pay contributions in favour of the Workers' Housing Organization, the employees of public law entities and of bodies of the wider public sector, as well as pensioners of the aforementioned categories, provided that they have completed a certain number of days of work according to the composition of their family, or meet the

special requirements defined for each one of the special programmes (for large families, persons with disabilities, single mothers, etc.). Moreover, they should not have their own residence or other assets where they can accommodate their family.

11. The subsidy is granted to all beneficiaries participating in the programme, provided that they meet the required criteria.

12. Monthly rent subsidy amounts:

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
SINGLE	92€	100€	105€	115€	115€	115€
MARRIED	92€	100€	105€	115€	115€	115€
MARRIED HAVING 1 CHILD	104€	120€	130€	140€	140€	140€
MARRIED HAVING 2 CHILDREN	125€	140€	155€	165€	165€	165€
MARRIED HAVING 3 CHILDREN	146€	160€	205€	215€	215€	215€
MARRIED HAVING 4 CHILDREN	167€*	180€**	205€***	215€***	215€***	215€***

* four or more children

** increment by 20€ for every child after the fourth.

*** increment by 25€ monthly for every child after the fifth.

In case of beneficiaries who were long-term unemployed or in case the employment contract was terminated within the year from time to time during which the programme was being implemented, or if the beneficiaries were unemployed and moved from their place of residence and found job in another place, as well as for those who had a very low income, the amounts of subsidy from 2004 to 2008 inclusive were increased by 50% per category.

13. The beneficiaries who had received a subsidy during the previous years may receive again a rent allowance, as long as they meet anew the requirements and submit a new application within the deadline fixed. Moreover, beneficiaries who for some reason had been disqualified from the programme, may be included again if they meet the aforementioned criteria.

(iii)

14-15. The beneficiaries must submit a relevant application along with the necessary supporting documents to the Citizens Service Centers (KEP) within the deadline fixed from time to time. After the approval of the application, a postal money order is sent to the beneficiary for the total annual amount of the allowance.

18. The persons interested can be informed about the programmes through the Press, the television and the website of the Workers' Housing Organization. In addition, information leaflets are printed and the persons interested can obtain them from the local Offices of the Workers' Housing Organization and the Citizens Service Centers. The beneficiaries who received a subsidy in the previous year can be informed directly by the Workers' Housing Organization through a relevant document.

(iv)

19. The implementation of the programme shall be ensured not only by the Workers' Housing Organization but also by the Directorate for Housing Assistance of the Ministry of Employment, which shall also contribute to the solution of any problems that may arise during the implementation.

20. The citizens (whether they are beneficiaries of the programme or not) may contact the Workers' Housing Organization or the Directorate for Housing Assistance of the Ministry of Employment in writing or by telephone or through e-mail, so as to receive information about the programmes or to express their complaints.

21. In case of rejection of the application, the beneficiary may lodge an objection, which shall be examined by the Board of Directors of the Workers' Housing Organization, or a petition for remedy in case of rejection of the objection.

4. Interest rate subsidy programme

The Workers' Housing Organization cooperates with credit institutions (banks), through which loans are given to its beneficiaries in the form of bank funds, and the interest rate is subsidized by the Workers' Housing Organization and the Greek State. The interest rate subsidy is granted by the Workers' Housing Organization for 60% of the total duration of loan repayment, that is, for 9 years today, and by the Greek State for 7.5 years.

This programme is continuous and all beneficiaries of the Workers' Housing Organization whose annual net family income for the year preceding the year of application submission was over 6,457€, can participate therein.

(i)

2. Legal framework: Law 2116/1993 'Interest rate subsidy of housing loans for beneficiaries of housing assistance and other provisions' (Official Gazette 18/A/18-2-1993), 2224/1994 (Official Gazette 112/A/6-7-1994), 2336/1995 (Official Gazette 189/A/12-9-1995).

3. -4. -5. Same as in the aforementioned rent subsidy programme.

(ii)

6. -7. Same as in the aforementioned programme.

8. For the implementation of the programme the Workers' Housing Organization paid to the banks in total 24,600,737€ for 2003, 42,177,538€ for 2004, 57,697,336€ for 2005, 81,735,390€ for 2006, 104,748,042€ for 2007 and 78,284,332€ for the first semester of 2008.

9. 2,366 loan contracts were signed in 2003, 7,364 in 2004, 7,999 in 2005, 13,847 in 2006, 11,296 in 2007 and 5,877 in the first semester of 2008.

All beneficiaries of the Workers' Housing Organization who meet the required criteria, regardless of age, nationality, etc., can participate in the interest rate subsidy programme. Mostly, beneficiaries having children and new couples participate therein.

10. All beneficiaries of the Workers' Housing Organization who meet the required criteria and whose annual net family income exceeds the limits set from time to time, can participate in the interest rate subsidy programme.

The beneficiaries of the Workers' Housing Organization are all workers having a private law employment relationship with their employer, are insured for a pension with a body of salaried workers' main insurance as long as both workers and their employers pay contributions in favour of the Workers' Housing Organization, the employees of public law entities and of bodies of the wider public sector, as well as pensioners of the aforementioned categories, provided that they have completed a certain number of days of work according to the composition of their family, or meet the special requirements defined for each one of the special programmes (for large families, persons with disabilities, single mothers, etc.). Moreover, they should not have their own house or other assets where they can accommodate their family.

11. Same as in the aforementioned programme.

12. The percentage of interest rate subsidy depends on beneficiary's income; the lower the income, the higher the subsidy. For 2003 and 2004 the percentages of interest rate subsidy varied from 34% to 56% for single beneficiaries, from 35% to 58% for married beneficiaries, from 40% to 57% for married beneficiaries having 1 child, from 45% to 72% for married beneficiaries having 2 children, from 50% to 79% for married beneficiaries having 3 children, from 56% to 85% for married beneficiaries having 4 or more children. For 2005 to 2008 the percentages of interest rate subsidy varied from 42% to 60% for single beneficiaries, from 43% to 65% for married beneficiaries, from 44% to 75% for married beneficiaries having 1 child, from 54% to 80% for married beneficiaries having 2 children, from 60% to 100% for married beneficiaries having 3 children, from 56% to 100% for married beneficiaries having 4 or more children.

13. The beneficiaries who had been disqualified from the programme because they did not meet the requirements, may file anew an application as long as they currently meet the requirements. Moreover, beneficiaries whose interest rate subsidy has been approved but who did not use the approval, may be included anew in the programme as long as they meet the requirements.
(iii)

14. Upon completion of the procedures for the approval of the interest rate subsidy (such as inspection of the real property wherefor the loan shall be granted, signature of the purchase contract, signature of the loan contract, registration of mortgage prenotation on the real property wherefor the loan shall be granted so that the loan amount can be obtained, etc.), the loan is granted to the beneficiary. Then, the Workers' Housing Organization transfers to beneficiary's account, kept with the bank for the repayment of the loan, equal amounts according to the interest rate to which the borrower is entitled and according to the category where he/she belongs, as stipulated from time to time by the relevant ministerial decision.

15. The beneficiaries, in order to apply for an interest rate subsidy, must fill in an application and submit it with the required supporting documents to the local offices of the Workers' Housing Organization.

18. The persons interested can be informed about the programmes through the Press, the television and the website of the Workers' Housing Organization. In addition, information leaflets are printed and the persons interested can obtain them from the local Offices of the Workers' Housing Organization.
(iv)

19. -20. -21. Same as in the aforementioned programme.

5. Programme of Financial Support through the Special Solidarity Fund (EKA)

The aim of the Special Solidarity Fund is the financial support of the beneficiaries of the Workers' Housing Organization who, due to long-term unemployment, particularly serious health problems of themselves or of their family or their dependants, damages to the real property due to natural disasters, intense social needs and bankruptcy of their employer, are unable to pay off their debts derived from the assignment of residence or from loans.

(i)

2. Legal framework: Law 2736/1999 (Official Gazette 172/A/26-8-1999), Law 3227/2004 (Official Gazette 31/A/9-2-2004)

3. -4. -5. Ministerial decisions issued upon recommendation by the Board of Directors of the Workers' Housing Organization specify the terms and conditions of beneficiaries' inclusion in the programme of EKA, the amount of financial support and any necessary detail. The financial support is granted upon decision by a three-member Committee operating within the Workers' Housing Organization.

The implementation of the programme shall be ensured not only by the Workers' Housing Organization but also by the Directorate for Housing Assistance of the Ministry of Employment, which shall also contribute to the solution of any problems that may arise during the implementation.

(ii)

6. Same as in the aforementioned programme.

7. 10% of the annual revenue of the Organization resulting from the amortization of previous loans or from the price for the assignment of residences, is used for the fund of EKA.

8. For the implementation of the programme the Workers' Housing Organization paid in total 383,408.52€ for the period between 2003 and 10/2008.

9. Between 2003 and 10/2008 419 applications were submitted and a financial support to 280 persons was approved.

All beneficiaries of the Workers' Housing Organization who meet the required criteria, regardless of age, nationality, etc., can participate in the financial support programme.

10. The beneficiaries of the Workers' Housing Organization who have debts towards the Workers' Housing Organization from the granting of housing assistance and are unable to pay them off due to long-term unemployment, particularly serious health problems of themselves or of their family or their dependants, damages to the real property due to natural disasters, intense social needs and bankruptcy of their employer, shall be entitled to a financial support.

11. The financial support shall be granted to all beneficiaries participating in the programme as long as they meet the required criteria.

12. The amount of the annual instalment and family income of the beneficiary in the year preceding the year of application submission shall be taken into consideration for the granting of the financial support and the determination of its amount. The financial support shall be granted for two semesters as from the submission of the application and in case of employer's bankruptcy it shall be

granted for the installments of the beneficiary's loan that correspond to the period from the time of payment cessation, as stipulated in the decision for bankruptcy declaration, until the service of the termination of the employment contract by the receiver.

The amount of the financial support is different for every beneficiary and in case, such as unemployment or after the deduction of expenses due to the reasons mentioned in 10, where there is no income, a financial support shall be granted, which will correspond to the entire debt for the two semesters. In case of employer's bankruptcy, the subsidy may be provided for more than twelve (12) months.

(iii)

14. The applications along with the necessary supporting documents are submitted to the Workers' Housing Organization and after the three-member Committee defines the amount of financial support, the corresponding amount is transferred to beneficiary's account kept with the Workers' Housing Organization or a bank.

15. In order to receive the financial support, the beneficiaries must submit an application along with the necessary supporting documents to the Workers' Housing Organization.

18. The persons interested can receive information from the agencies of the Workers' Housing Organization and the relevant website.

(iv)

19.-20. Same as in the aforementioned programme.

6. Special Allowances paid by the Manpower Employment Organization (OAED)

The Manpower Employment Organization, in order to promote the integration of the unemployed persons into the labour market, the improvement of their living conditions, the prevention of poverty and social exclusion, pays special allowances to unemployed persons who have exhausted their right to the regular subsidy due to unemployment. More specifically:

Special allowance after the completion of the regular subsidy due to unemployment

The unemployed persons, who are not seasonally employed, after the completion of the regular subsidy due to unemployment (It should be noted that the maximum period of granting the regular unemployment benefit is twelve (12) months), provided that they remain unemployed and their annual family income does not exceed 8,217.68, receive a special allowance consisting of 13 basic day wages. This special allowance (a) from 1/1/2007 to 30/4/2007 amounted to 181.74€ (13.98*13) and (b) from 1/5/2007 until the end of 2007 it amounted to 190.97€ (14.69*13).

Special allowance for those who remain recorded for three months in the registers of unemployed persons

The unemployed persons, who do not meet the requirements for a regular subsidy (are not seasonal workers) and have completed at least sixty (60) days of work in the calendar year preceding the year when they were registered with the Manpower Employment Organization and who remain unemployed for three (3) months, shall be entitled to a special allowance. This allowance shall be paid every three months in three installments within the same year. The amount is equal to fifteen (15) daily unemployment allowances, provided that their family income does not exceed the amount of 8,217.68€. This special allowance (a) from 1/1/2007 to 30/4/2007 amounted to 209.70€ (13.98*15) and (b) from 1/5/2007 to this day it amounted to 220.35€ (14.69*15).

Allowance for long-term unemployed persons

Long-term unemployed persons are those who have completed 12 consecutive months of unemployment, remain recorded in the registers of unemployed persons of the Manpower Employment Organization and have exhausted their right to the regular 12-month subsidy. The annual family income should not exceed 5,000 euro. This income shall be increased by 587 euro for every minor child. The amount of the allowance is 200 euro and is granted for 12 months.

ANNEX

- Tables 3, 4, 5: Number of beneficiaries of EKAS for December 2005 by sex and age of old-age, disability and survivor pensioners respectively.
- Tables 6, 7, 8: Number of beneficiaries of EKAS for December 2006 by sex and age of old-age, disability and survivor pensioners respectively.
- Tables 9, 10, 11: Number of beneficiaries of EKAS for December 2007 by sex and age of old-age, disability and survivor pensioners respectively.
- Tables 12, 13, 14: Number of beneficiaries of EKAS for October 2008 by sex and age of old-age, disability and survivor pensioners respectively.

The aforementioned tables (2) concern the years from 2005 to 2008 inclusive, since there are no available detailed data for years 2003 and 2004.

The Ministry of National Economy and Finance has adopted the following measures:

MEASURE A

1. Financial aid to households of mountain and less-favoured areas with low income

(i) Legal and institutional framework

2. Law 3016/2002 (no 27) – Joint Ministerial Decision 2/49670/23.9.2005 issued upon authorization by this law

3. and 4. The Ministry of Economy and Finance is competent for the planning and implementation of the financial aid programme. There was no involvement of the local, prefectural or regional authorities, social partners and non-governmental organizations.

(ii) Programme cost and coverage

7. and 9.

FINANCIAL YEAR	AMOUNT in million euro (approximately)	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES (approximately)
2003	24.5	40,800

2004	25.9	43,200
2005	27.2	50,400
2006	23.7	40,400
2007	24.4	43,300
2008	17.2 (to this day)	28,900

Source of financing: Regular budget

10. A criterion for the eligibility of beneficiaries is their low income.

12. and 13. Every year an allowance of 600 euro is granted for an annual income of up to 2,000 euro and an allowance of 300 euro for an annual income of up to 3,000 euro. There is no final date for the granting of this allowance, as long as the requirements for receipt thereof are still met.

(iii) Implementation procedures

14. The allowance is paid to the beneficiaries by the public revenue offices of the country.

(iv) Monitoring mechanisms and complaints procedures

19. Quantitative targets to be achieved have not been set, and a competent agency for the monitoring of the measures has not been designated.

MEASURE B

1. Financial aid to families with children of obligatory education (not older than 16 years) and low income

(i) Legal and institutional framework

2. Law 3016/2002 (no 27) – Joint Ministerial Decision 2/37645/0020/8.7.2002 issued upon authorization by this law

3. and 4. The Ministry of Economy and Finance is competent for the planning and implementation of the financial aid programme. There was no involvement of the local, prefectural or regional authorities, social partners and non-governmental organizations.

(ii) Programme cost and coverage

7. and 9.

FINANCIAL YEAR	AMOUNT in million euro (approximately)	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES (approximately)
2003	8.7	29,100
2004	7.6	25,400
2005	7	23,300
2006	8.3	27,600
2007	7.6	25,300

2008	4.6 (to this day)	15,300	
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Source of financing: Regular budget

10. A criterion for the eligibility of beneficiaries is their low income.

12. and 13. Every year an allowance of 300 euro is granted for every child and an annual family income of up to 2,000 euro. There is no final date for the granting of this allowance, as long as the requirements for receipt thereof are still met.

(iii) Implementation procedures

14. The allowance is paid to the beneficiaries by the public revenue offices of the country.

(iv) Monitoring mechanisms and complaints procedures

19. Quantitative targets to be achieved have not been set, and a competent agency for the monitoring of the measures has not been designated.

MEASURE C

1. Student housing benefit for families with children studying in Greek Universities and Higher Education Institutions who reside in a town other than the town of their main residence

(i) Legal and institutional framework

2. Law 3220/2004 (no 10) as amended and currently in force – Joint Ministerial Decision 1004908/381/2004, issued upon authorization by this law, as amended and currently in force.

3. The Ministry of Economy and Finance is competent for the planning and implementation of the financial aid programme.

(ii) Programme cost and coverage

7. and 9.

FINANCIAL YEAR	AMOUNT in thousand euro (approximately)	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES (approximately)
2004	72,6	
2005	67,7	
2006	62,3	62,100
2007	50,8	50,700
2008	44,7 (to this day)	

Source of financing: Regular budget

10. A criterion for the eligibility of beneficiaries is their low income.

12. and 13. Every year an allowance of 1,000 euro is granted for every child and an annual family income of up to 30,000 euro, increased by 3,000 euro for every additional child. There is no final date for the granting of this allowance, as long as the requirements for receipt thereof are still met.

(iii) Implementation procedures

14. The allowance is paid to the beneficiaries by the public revenue offices of the country.

MEASURE D

1. Pensioners' Social Solidarity Allowance (EKAS) for pensioners of the State

(i) Legal and institutional framework

2. Law 2453/1997 as amended and currently in force.

3. The General Accounting Office (Ministry of Economy and Finance) is competent for the planning and implementation of the allowance.

(ii) Programme cost and coverage

7. and 9.

FINANCIAL YEAR	AMOUNT in million euro (approximately)	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES (approximately)
2003	17,6	16,700
2004	19,9	15,700
2005	18,2	13,900
2006	15,2	11,700
2007	14,2	8,300
2008	15,6	7,900

Source of financing: Regular budget

10. The eligibility of beneficiaries is based on an age criterion (over 60 years old) and income criteria (income from pensions, individual income and family income). The income criteria are readjusted periodically.

(iii) Implementation procedures

14. The allowance is paid to the beneficiaries by the General Accounting Office (Ministry of Economy and Finance).

MEASURE E

1. Financial aid programmes for poor households – Establishment of the Social Cohesion Fund (it is expected to start operating)

(i) Legal and institutional framework

3. Law 3631/2008

(ii) Programme cost and coverage

4. The programmes shall be planned and implemented by the competent Ministries, as the case may be, which are mainly the Ministry of Employment and Social Protection and the Ministry of Health and Social Solidarity.

7. Appropriations amounting to 100 million euro have been entered in the budget for 2008, while appropriations amounting to 350 million euro have been entered in the budget for 2009.

9. The terms and conditions for the beneficiaries shall be specified by a joint ministerial decision.

10. The categories of beneficiaries shall be determined on the basis of certain income and social criteria. The income criterion concerns an annual income lower than 60% of the median equivalent total available income (defined now officially as poverty line), while at the same time social criteria shall also be taken into consideration, such as in case of single-parent families, unemployed persons and low income pensioners.

(iii) Implementation procedures

14. The procedures shall be specified by a joint ministerial decision.

(iv) Monitoring mechanisms and complaints procedures

19. A report evaluating the progress of implementation of the targets of the Fund shall be drawn up.

Geneva, 18 December 2008