



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE  
GENEVA

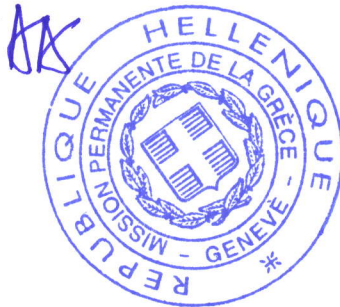
**VERY URGENT**

Ref. No. 6171.2 /77/AS 934

**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 reference made to the latter's Note Verbale Housing (2013-3) dated 22.3.2013 (concerning communication of the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing Mrs Raquel Rolnic) has the honor to convey the relevant replies provided by the Greek Government (Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Interior ).

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



Geneva, 3 June 2013

To:

**-The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council**  
Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland  
Fax: 0041-22-917)006

Pages attached: 3

**OHCHR REGISTRY**

**06 JUN 2013**

Recipients : SPB.....

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**REPLIES OF THE GREEK ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY  
TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR  
TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**QUESTION 4**

As shown by statistical data, 80 % of houses in Greece are of individual ownership and 20 % rental. Insecurity of tenure was not an issue in Greece until the economic crisis occurred.

Informal settlements of low standard were a problem in the '60s and '70s. Planning policies as well as increase of GDP resulted in a clear improvement of housing conditions since that time.

There are still some nomadic Roma populations, but we don't dispose figures on them. There have been so far, to our knowledge, at least 2 completed housing programmes for Roma and procedures had started for a third one, the area for which has been approved by our services as part of the extension of an existing urban plan. All 3 cases are situated in the Regions of Macedonia.

**QUESTION 6**

Law 4014/2011 aimed – among other things – at regularizing tenure rights and illegal buildings and reorganizing informal settlements. Yet, it is to be clarified that such settlements in Greece are not – in their big majority – slums needing upgrading but mostly secondary houses that have not respected the official licensing procedure.

Making use of the provisions of the Law 4014/2011, some 500.000 people have started the process foreseen to regularize their buildings, the big majority of which had exceeded the terms of their respective construction permit.

Recently, the Council of State decided that this Law was not conforming fully to the Constitution. A new draft Law on the issue has been elaborated by the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change. It is under consultation and is expected to be approved by the Parliament soon.

**QUESTION 7**

A Spatial and Urban Planning Reform is under way, including also provisions for a Land Policy / Land Bank. It is expected to be concluded by 2014.

**QUESTION 9**

It has not been the case so far, since over the last 15 years there has been an improvement of the living conditions and 80 % of the houses are of individual ownership, as mentioned before.