

PRESS RELEASE

The National Commission for Human Rights invites the Minister of Justice, Mr. Charalambos Athanasiou to take a legal initiative regarding the recognition of the homosexual civil union 18.12.2013

In view of the judgment of the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) of 7 November 2013, in the case *Vallianatos and others v. Greece*, the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) sent a letter to the Minister of Justice, Mr. Charalambos Athanasiou, by which it recalled its previous positions regarding the necessity for legal recognition of the same-sex civil unions. Also, in view of the Minister's statements during the discussion of the anti-racism bill in the competent Parliamentary Committee on the necessity for the Ministry to take into account the ECtHR judgment, NCHR invited the Minister to take a legal initiative for the recognition of the same-sex civil unions. Moreover, the NCHR noted that in its judgment, the Grand Chamber of the ECtHR repeatedly quoted and took into consideration the positions of the NCHR (see paras. 12, 15, 21-24, 87 and 89 of the judgment).