

**HELLENIC REPUBLIC**  
**GREEK NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

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<p><b>Comments on the Legal Framework of the Use of Force and Firearms by Police Forces</b></p>
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Upon request of the Minister of Public Order, the Commission proposed the modification of the current relevant Greek legal framework on the basis of relevant principles and norms of the United Nations and the Council of Europe. The Commission stressed that the Greek legislation and police education and training are inadequate to confront modern forms of violence and criminality. The new legislation should be squarely grounded on the principle of necessity and proportionality and guided, *inter alia*, by the 1979 UN Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the 1990 UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials. The Commission also stressed the imperative of intensifying the training courses of all Greek police personnel and of effectively safeguarding the latter's right to life and physical integrity and their families' special social security rights.

4 April 2001