

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
GREEK NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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<p>Decision on the Protection of the Scarce Green Areas in the City of Athens and its Surroundings</p>

The NCHR carefully examined the appeals and reports submitted by a number of non-governmental organisations dealing with the protection of the environment (e.g. the Greek branch of WWF). The NCHR underlined the importance and emergency of the matter and invited all competent State authorities to make it a priority issue in their agenda. It stressed the negative effect that the Olympic Games' related constructions have had on the green areas of the periphery of Athens. It also made reference to the fact that the relevant Authorities often disregard decisions of the Supreme Administrative Court pertaining, *inter alia*, to the protection of green areas in the city of Athens, a practice that has been previously criticised by the NCHR (see NCHR's 2002 Report: Comments of the NCHR on the Bill on the Greek administration's compliance with judicial decisions, 9 July 2002). Finally, the NCHR made a series of proposals with regards to the issue. It is noteworthy that a considerable number of media has taken interest in the above decision, when rendered public.

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