

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
GREEK NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Recommendations regarding the “Syngros Forest” in Attica

Following an appeal by the “Friends of the Syngros Forest” citizens’ union (07.04.06) to the NCHR, regarding a series of actions or omissions leading to the degradation of the forest, the Commission, considering the imperative need for the protection of the environment, submitted the following proposals and recommendations to the Ministry of Agriculture (Institute of Agronomic Sciences) and particularly to the bodies responsible for the said forest:

(a) the need to fully respect the non-commercial character of the land in question;

(b) the importance of safeguarding, protecting, renewing and enriching the flora – in one word, preserving it;

(c) the necessity of restoring its two (and wildly vandalised) buildings, the “Villa Syngros” and the St. Andreas church;

(d) the urgency of demolishing any illegal construction and addressing any other illegal uses or acts;

(e) the exclusion of any use of the forest for illegal or commercial reasons, which would lead to its degradation, as has been the case on many similar occasions;

(f) the implementation of the rule of preserving forestall and agricultural areas in a state of fertility;

(g) the participation of representatives of the “Friends of the Syngros Forest” union and other environmental groups in the body in charge of the forest, as provided by the Aarhus Treaty (ratified by Greece by Law 3422/2005).

20 June 2006