

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
GREEK NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Observations on Law 3386/2005 titled “Entry and Residence of Third Country Nationals on Greek Territory”

The Commission’s concluding observations were presented by its President before the competent Parliamentary committee (06.07.2005). The Commission (which deliberated on this issue on several occasions) expressed its disappointment regarding the procedures followed during the formulation of the Bill. In particular, it stressed that, when it comes to such important enactments (the Law under discussion regulates the status of about one tenth of the country’s population), wider consultations should take place with the bodies concerned, such as NGOs, representatives of immigrants’ associations and the civil society in general. Moreover, the limited amount of time granted did not allow for all the Commission’s observations to be taken into account in the final stages of the Bill’s discussion in the Parliament.

The deficiencies in many of the Law’s provisions give the impression that it is repressive and anti-integrative in character. It was further suggested that the Greek legislation should be harmonized both with EC Law and its international obligations regarding the protection of vulnerable groups (especially children). Considering that the Bill aimed at amending Law 2910/2001 by incorporating EU Directives 86/2003, 109/2003 and 81/2004, thus simplifying and updating current procedures, the Commission is concerned regarding the issues of working permits, family reunification, human trafficking, residence permits for exceptional or humanitarian reasons, administrative expulsion, protection of minors,

second-generation immigrants, civil rights, penalties and interim provisions.

10 October 2005