17 May 2018

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in the course of its 95th session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of the Greece, pursuant to Article 9 (1) of the Convention, and Rule 65 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 23 (e), 23 (f) and 25 (b) of the Concluding Observations (CERD/C/GRC/CO/20-22), adopted following the consideration of the State party’s combined 20th to 22nd periodic reports, at its 90th session held in August 2016.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity provided to continue its dialogue with the State party, and would like to draw the State party’s attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on actions taken by the State party on these issues be included in its 23rd and 24th periodic reports to be submitted in a single document by 18 July 2019.

Paragraph 23 (e) and 23 (f) of the Concluding Observations: The Committee thanks the State party for the detailed information provided, and encourages the State party to continue its efforts to provide education to migrant minors, and disseminate information about its asylum procedures and individually assess asylum claims. The Committee would like to request that the State party provide in its next periodic report information on: (1) measures taken to improve age assessment of migrants claiming to be minors; (2) efforts made to improve migrants’ access on the islands to basic services including education, and to adequate information about and access to asylum procedures; (3) information on steps taken to improve the conditions under which migrants are transferred from the State party’s islands to the mainland territory; (4) statistics on the number of migrant children in Greece, and on the number of non-citizen children who have been enrolled in all educational programmes developed during the past four years (including information on their age, country of origin and gender); (5) more specific information on children living in the State party’s islands; and (6) information on the average length of time taken to process asylum claims.

Her Excellency Ms. Anna Korka
Permanent Representative of Greece
to the United Nations Office at Geneva
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Paragraph 25 (b) of the Concluding Observations: The Committee thanks the State party for the information on legal protections for migrant workers and/or ethnic minorities, and on mechanisms and trainings to identify victims of human trafficking, including for labor purposes. The Committee requests that the State party provide in its next periodic report: (1) information on whether employers who impose abusive labor conditions or realize acts of racial discrimination are subject to criminal and/or administrative sanctions; and (2) statistics indicating administrative procedures launched and criminal cases investigated and prosecuted for discrimination, abusive labor conditions and human trafficking of migrants and/or ethnic minorities, as well as the number of convictions imposed, penalties imposed, and remedies provided to victims; (3) statistics on labor inspections visits and related sanctions, violations and penalties; and (4) information on the number and nature of specialized trainings for labor inspectors on first-level identification of victims of human trafficking and the expected results of these trainings.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of Greece, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Noureddine Amir
Chair
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination