



WWF Greece
21 Lembessi str
11743 Athens

Tel.: +30 210 3314893
Fax: +30 210 3247578
d.karavellas@wwf.gr
www.wwf.gr/en

Mr Declan Costello
Mission Chief for Greece
European Commission

27 April 2018

Dear Mr. Costello,

At the Eurogroup meeting of April 27, Greece presented its [“comprehensive growth strategy”](#), outlining goals and priorities for the coming years”.

According to the relevant clause of the Supplemental MOU of 5 July 2017, “[t]he Greek authorities will finalise the growth strategy by June 2017, which inter alia should aim at creating over the next 2-3 years a more attractive business environment, enhancing growth opportunities from infrastructure, improving the education system as well as human capital formation through vocational education and training (See section 4.1), strengthening the financing of business, and developing R&D and innovation. It should also help design sectorial priorities in areas such as ICT, tourism, transport, pharmaceuticals and logistics, and agriculture and agro-food. The authorities will implement the strategy with the assistance of a Scientific Development Council including social partners and sectoral business organisations as well as by setting up an Advisory Panel of foreign investors (by June 2017).”

WWF firmly believes that democratic, transparent and accountable governance systems and practices are essential for achieving sustainable development.

Although alleged versions have been published in the media, adding to speculation and confusion, it is with great disappointment that Greece’s development plan for the years to come is being decided without any transparency or public consultation over a comprehensive pre-final draft version. We fail to understand how social partners will be asked to implement a strategy which will be presented to them as a fait accompli.

After eight years of surveillance under three economic adjustment programmes, whose overall impact on environmental laws and policies has undoubtedly been detrimental, we strongly believe that the lack of transparency covering the negotiations and the content of the priorities for development erodes their acceptance, efficacy and legitimacy. Considering that the European Commission, both as leading member of the institutions supervising Greece's economic adjustment and as guardian of the Treaties*, shares responsibility with the Greek Government for this situation, we ask you to make publicly available the "comprehensive growth strategy" as soon as possible. Recommending use of the OECD guidelines on "The governance of inclusive growth", we also ask you to commit to supporting the need for transparency in decision-making and inclusive public consultation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Karavellas', is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Demetres Karavellas
Director, WWF Greece

*Every citizen shall have the right to participate in the democratic life of the Union. Decisions shall be taken as openly and as closely as possible to the citizen." (Art. 10 TEU)

Copies to:

- Alexis Tsipras, Prime Minister of Greece
- Euclid Tsakalotos, Finance Minister