



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

TFGR - TASK FORCE FOR GREECE
Head of the Task Force for Greece

Brussels,
TFGR/HR/GK/ivb

Dear Mr Karavellas,

Thank you for your letter of 22 April concerning illegal buildings and land tenures in Greece. I do not know to which media reports you refer but I can assure you that the Task Force does not encourage "the Greek Government to proceed rapidly with the legalization of illegal buildings and land tenures".

The Task Force is actively helping the Greek Government with its commitment to complete the Cadastre by 2020 and has been coordinating the work of a group of experts who are advising Ktimatologio and the Ministry of Environment. The experts, who are led by a senior official from the Netherlands, come from a number of European countries and all have extensive experience in the area of land registration. They are responsible for the content of the reports that they produce and submit to the Greek Authorities.

As you rightly say, the draft report that they submitted in February refers to the problem of the large number of illegal buildings, and in this context they note that there are several examples in other European countries of successful legalisation of illegal buildings. They also note that the problem is complex as there are various types of illegality including: illegal building on state land (forest land), building on legally owned land without building permit, building with illegally edited permissions, occupation of building without living permit, etc. As all these cases present different and difficult legal, environmental and social problems, the experts suggest a workshop whose participants would include high level decision makers as well as people with relevant experience from other EU countries.

The Greek Government will decide how to take stock of this experience and to incorporate it into the overall work on the cadastre and the improvement of the organisation of land administration. In the event that legislative changes are necessary, the usual procedures will ensure that these are fully compatible with EU legislation.

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