



HELLENIC REPUBLIC  
**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

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THE PRESIDENT

*Mr Martín García Moritán*  
*Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing*

Athens, 23 January 2019

Dear Mr Chairman,

The Greek National Commission for Human Rights (hereinafter GNCHR) warmly welcomes the initiative of the Open Ended Working Group on Ageing to request the formal input of *A status* NHRIs to the work of the forthcoming Tenth Session of the Working Group and would be more than willing to share its Opinions and Recommendations on the matter.

The GNCHR, which was established by Law 2667/1998 in accordance with the Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions (The Paris Principles) and is accredited with *A-status* by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation (SCA) of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), is the independent advisory body to the State on matters pertaining to human rights protection. The GNCHR mandate covers the whole spectrum of human rights in terms of *ratione materiae* and, since its establishment, has dealt with a broad range of human rights issues, including the rights of older persons and the impact of the financial crisis and austerity measures on human rights in general and more specifically of the rights of the elderly.

In particular, you will find, for your convenience, some of the GNCHR reports and material dealing with older persons' rights on the GNCHR website:

- GNCHR [thematic Report](#) on :Protection of the Rights of Older Persons (2014)
- GNCHR [Report](#) on the Right to Social Security (2016)
- Urgent GNCHR [Statement](#) on Labour and Social Security Rights (2017)
- [Observations](#) submitted by the GNCHR in view of the examination of the 27th Greek Report on the application of the European Social Charter (Articles 3, 11, 12, 13 and 14) and on the 11th

Greek Report on the application of the Additional Protocol to the European Social Charter (Article 4)(Reference Period 01/01/2012-31/12/2015) (2017)

Moreover, in the context of the human rights monitoring and follow-up that the GNCHR has undertaken since the very first GNCHR relevant recommendations in 2010, it has become quite evident that austerity measures and economic reform programmes, which often conflict with the human rights obligations of the States, have had a disproportionate impact on older persons' rights. The GNCHR has for this purpose addressed since 2010 several recommendations on how to reverse the negative impacts. You can find the above-mentioned GNCHR Reports summarised in the [GNHR factsheet](#) on the "Impact of Economic Reform Policies and Austerity Measures on Human Rights" (2010-2018).

The GNCHR remains vigilant when it comes to safeguarding the full enjoyment without discrimination of human rights and is at your disposal for any further information.

Looking forward to the continuation of our fruitful collaboration with you.

With sincere regards,



Georgios Stavropoulos

President of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights