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EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT EUROOPA PARLAMENT ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
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COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DELEGATION TO GREECE 13 - E5 JULY 2011



source: <http://kopiaste.org>



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Programme of the delegation

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Delegation to Greece

13 - 15 July 2011

PROGRAMMEⁱ

Wednesday 13 July 2011 : Thessaloniki

Individual arrival of Members and Staff to Thessaloniki

11:30 Briefing meeting with officials from the European Parliament information office and European Commission in Greece: MEPs that have already arrived are welcome.¹

Venue : Conference room

Electra Palace Hotel

Aristotelous Square,
54624 Thessaloniki, Greece
Tel : 00 30 2310 294000
Fax: 00 30 2310 294001

reservations@electrahotels.gr

<http://www.electrahotels.gr/electra-thessaloniki/index.html>

15:00 **Official start of the delegation** -Bus Transfer to the City Hall for a meeting with Greek Authorities (30') : delegation meets at Hotel Lobby

15:30 Round table with representatives of the Greek Authorities :

Welcome notes and presentations by :

Mr Panayiotis AVRAMOPOULOS, President of the City Council (hosting the meeting) and **Mr Hasdai KAPON**, Vice-Mayor for Development and Financial Resources (representing the Mayor of Thessaloniki)

15:45 Speech by **Mr Sokratis XYNIDIS**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Regional Development and Competitiveness;
Topic: Cohesion Policy in Greece: where do we stand and where we are going after 2013

¹ Press is entitled to attend.



16:00 Exchange of views of the future of cohesion policy in Greece

Topic : "Greece 2020 : the way for a new Deal"

In the framework of the recent macro economic and financial outcomes (measures adopted to stabilize financial balance of Greek national accounts and future measures on cohesion policy in Greece announced by Mr Barroso) and of the coming new regulation on Cohesion policy that will be voted in codecision by the European Parliament with the Council, the future main Rapporteurs are present in Northern Greece to discuss with Greek Authorities all the relevant proposals they can address them in order to enable cohesion policy to be the key enabling factor to shape a new deal in Greece within EU 2020 objectives

Participants :

Mr Panayiotis AVRAMOPOULOS , President of the City Council

Mr Hasdai KAPON, Vice- Mayor of Thessaloniki;

Mr Andreas KOURAKIS , Vice -Mayor for Urban Development;

Mr Thimios SOKOS, Secretary General, Decentralised Administration of Macedonia and Thrace

Mr Nikolaos TSOTSOLIS, Gen. Director of the Region of Central Macedonia (on behalf of the Regional Governor of Central Macedonia)

Mr Apostolos TZITZIKOSTAS, Deputy Regional Governor of Thessaloniki:

Mr Sokratis XYNIDIS, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Regional Development and Competitiveness;

17:00 Presentation by experts and Managing Authorities of the Operational Programs of the Region elaborated within the frame of National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) for the programming period 2007-2013 including the METRO of Thessaloniki

Presentations by:

Mrs Aggeliki OREOPOULOU, Head of the Intermediate Managing Authority of Central Macedonia

Mr Chrysostomos KALOGIROU, Expert of MOD

Mr Georgios KONSTANTINIDIS, Project Manager of METRO of Thessaloniki

*Venue : Cityhall (Dimarheio) of Thessaloniki Vasileos Georgiou 1
TK 54640, Thessaloniki*

Press point before leaving the Cityhall

18:00 Transfer to Metro project visit



18:10 Project Visit : Metro/Underground (StathmosVenizelou)

Venue: Transfer to a METRO station under construction, Presentation of archeological researches and implications to the development of the project.

19: 00 Bus transfer to Regional TV Station ET3

19:10 Reception at the Regional TV Station ET3 (Leoforos Stratou & Kaftantzoglou, Thessaloniki will welcome the delegation)

Press point and TV interviews during the reception

20: 00 Welcome dinner : restaurant of the **Museum of Byzantine Culture**
2 Stratou Avenue, Thessaloniki 546 40, Greece
P.O.B. 50047, Postcode: 54013 Thessaloniki
Tel.: +30 2313 306 400
Fax: +30 2310 838 597

22 : 30 Transfer to hotel

Thursday 14 July 2011 Thessaloniki-Vergina-Kozani-Kastoria-Ioannina

8: 00 - Delegation to meet in Hotel Lobby (check out from Hotel) and bus transfer to Lake Koroneia (during the transfer, representatives of Lake Koroneia Managing Agency will present the project during the bus journey : 40')

8: 45 Project Visit : Lake Koroneia

Welcome by **Mrs Dimitra C. BOBORI, President of the Managing Agency for the lakes of Koroneia and Volvis**

Exchange of views, Participants : The Bord of Directors of the Agency (eventually NGO representatives)

Venue : Socrates Tsakali 21, Lagadas, 57200

10: 00 Bus transfer to Vergina (90')

11: 30 Project Visit : Vergina Ruins

Welcome, Detailed tour and visit of the Museum by **Mrs Athanasia KYRIAKOU Archeologist and assistant of Ms Paliadeli (MEP and Pr. Dr in Archeology)**

13: 00 Bus transfer Kozani (during the journey, 2 representatives from Egnatia Odos project will present it: **Mrs SAKOUBETA Eleni and Mrs STEFANIDOU)**

13: 15 Stop at the motorway Egnatia Odos : project visit

13:45 Bus transfer to Kozani (30': Premises of Regional Authorities of Western Macedonia :



arrival at 14:15)

- 14:30 Lunch (Buffet) offered by the Regional Authorities
Welcome by **Mr Giorgos DAKIS, Regional Governor of the Region of Western Macedonia**
- 15:30 Presentation of the NSFR of the region (10')
- 15 : 40 Presentations of the projects :
- "Smart Village" by **Mr Konstantinos ISPOGLOU**,
Managing Director of DEDEPOK (Active Urbanism of the City of Kozani)
- "Photovoltaic park of 200MW" (5') by **Mr Ioannis TSITOURIDES**, Managing
Director of the Public Electric Company SA (ΔΕΗ)
- 16.30 Presentation of the project DIADYMA by **Mr Dimosthenes MAVRIDES**, Managing
Director of the Company of Waste Management of Western Macedonia (DIADYMA)
(eventually visit to DIADYMA and XYTA : (Old mining site))

Participants :

Mr Emmanouil CHATZISYMEONIDIS, Mayor of the city of Kastoria
Mr Georgios DAKIS, Regional Governor(Region of Western Macedonia)
Mrs Dimitra GEORGAKOPOULOU-BASTA, Secretary General of the Decentralised
Administration of Epirus-Western Macedonia
Mr Christos KARANTINOS, Deputy Head of Managing Authority of the Region
Mr Lazaros MALOUTAS *Mayor of the city of Kozani*

*Venues : in the premises of Regional Authorities of Western Macedonia :
Region of ZEP Kozani 50100*

- 17:15 Bust transfer to Kastoria (75')
- 18:30 Visit of the "Cavern of Drakos": Welcome by **Mr Emmanouil CHATZISYMEONIDIS, Mayor of the city of Kastoria**
- 19:00 Bust transfer to Official Dinner
- 21:00. Bus transfer to Ioannina



22: 30 Arrival at Ioannina hotel Dulac (check in)

Hotel chosen for the stay in Ioannina

Hotel du Lac & Congress Center
A. Miaouli & Ikkou, 45221 Ioannina,
Tel. 0030 26510 59100
Fax: 0030 26510 59200
e-mail: info@hoteldulac.gr
<http://www.hoteldulac.gr/en.aspx>

Friday 15 July 2011 Ioannina

07 : 45 Breakfast and Check out of the hotel Dulac

08: 15 Bus transfer to the Region of Epirus' offices(15' : Region of Epirus)

08: 30 Round table with representatives of the Greek Authorities

Welcome and presentation by **Mr Mr Alexandros KAHRIMANIS**
Regional Governor, Region of Epirus

Round table :

- **Mrs Dimitra GEORGAKOPOULOU-BASTA, Secretary General of the Decentralised Administration of Epirus and Western Macedonia,**
- **Mr Filippas FILIOS, Mayor of the Municipality of Ioannina,**
- **Mrs Eleni ROKKOU, Head of the Intermediate Managing Authority of the Region of Epirus**
- **Advisors and Experts, Ministry of Regional Development and Competitiveness**
(tbc)

Exchange of views

*Venue : Region of Epirus offices Address: Square Pyrrhus 1 , 452 21
Ioannina*

09: 15 Bus transfer to project visits (30') : during the transfer in the bus :
Presentation of the projects to visit by **Mrs Vasso KOSTOULA (Landfill of Ellinikon), Authority responsible for the supervision of the project DEKE**
(Projects Construction Control Unit) of the Region of Epirus



- 09: 45** Project visit : Landfill of Ellinikon
Visit by **Mrs Vasso KOSTOULA**
Venue : Ellinikon area
- 10: 30** Bus transfer to project visits (30') : during the transfer in the bus :
Presentation of the projects to visit by **Mr Kostas SPIROPOULOS (Hospital Hatzikostas), representative of the Authority responsible for the supervision of the project DEPANOM** (the public company responsible for hospital construction)
- 11: 00** Project visit : Hospital "Hatzikostas"-a new centre dedicated to the alcoholism and drug abuse rehabilitation :
- Visit by **Mr Kostas SPIROPOULOS**
Venue : Makriyianni Av. 45001 Ioannina
- 11: 35** End of the project visit : transfer to the press conference (25')
- 12: 00 Press Conference
Venue : Region of Epirus offices Square Pyrrhus 1 , 452 21 Ioannina
- 12:30 End of the press conference
- 12:30 Cocktail Reception offered by the Region of Epirus
- Venue : Region of Epirus offices Square Pyrrhus 1 , 452 21 Ioannina*
- From 15.00**
End of the official program of the Delegation



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*** Notice to participants of the delegation²**

Participants of the delegation and responsibilities of the Members of committee delegations

Please note that the Committee delegations shall consist solely of **full or substitute Members of the Committee**. The delegation shall be **assisted** by the committee secretariat, political group advisors and an interpretation service. On Chair's authorisation other EU officials from other Community institutions may join the Delegation.

Only Members who are officially part of the delegation shall have the **right to speak** at official meetings. On the Chair's authority, the Secretariat may take the floor (when necessary) in procedural issues or pertinent clarifications.

Relations with the press and third parties

Press conferences and/or press releases concerning the delegation's activities shall be held and/or issued **under the authority of the Chair of the Delegation**. Press releases shall reflect, when possible and pertinent, the positions set out in the resolutions adopted by Parliament.

Members participating in the delegation should try to keep the Chair and the Secretariat informed about individual press releases and interviews so that the information and final report reflects fully the press coverage of the Delegation.

² In accordance with *the Bureau Decision of 2 October 2000 on TRAVEL BY COMMITTEE DELEGATIONS OUTSIDE THE THREE PLACES OF WORK OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT and the IMPLEMENTING PROVISIONS GOVERNING THE WORK OF DELEGATIONS, DECISION OF THE CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF 21 SEPTEMBER 2006*



List of Participants

Delegation Visit Greece 13 - 15 July 2011

<i>MEMBERS</i>	<i>Lang. Spoken</i>	<i>Political Group</i>	<i>Tel. Fax BXL/STR</i>	<i>Office BXL/STR</i>
<i>Chair of the delegation</i> <i>Mr. Lambert VAN NISTELROOIJ</i>	NL/EN /DE	PPE	45434 75434	ASP - 12E142 LOW - T09036
<i>Mr. Markus PIEPER</i>	DE/EN	PPE	45305 75305	ASP - 15E217 LOW - T10016
<i>Ms. Radvilė MORKŪNAITĖ-MIKULĖNIENĖ</i>	LT/EN	PPE	45243 75243	ASP - 03F167 LOW - T09084
<i>Ms. Constanze KREHL</i>	DE/EN	S&D	45134 75134	ASP - 12G258 LOW - T07013
<i>Mr Derek VAUGHAN</i>	EN	S&D	45419 75419	ASP - 13G254 LOW - T07030
<i>TOTAL NUMBER</i>	5			
<i>GREEK ELECTED MEMBERS</i>				
<i>Ms. Rodi KRATSA -TSAGAROPOULOU</i>	EL	PPE	45308 75308	ASP 08E165 LOW T12061
<i>Mr. Georgios STAVRAKAKIS</i>	EL	S&D	45467 75467	ASP 11G158 LOW T07074
<i>Mr. Michail TREMOPOULOS</i>	EL	Verts/ALE	45402 75402	ASP 08H247 LOW T05059
<i>Mr. Charalampos ANGOURAKIS</i>	EL	GUE/NGL	45911 75911	ASP 07F359 LOW T05009
<i>TOTAL NUMBER</i>	4			



<i>SECRETARIAT of the EP Committee on Regional Development</i>			
<i>Mr. Miguel TELL CREMADES</i> Head of the Committee Secretariat		+32 498 983 219 42433 72620	ATR - 01K048 SDM - G04005
<i>Mr. Franck RICAUD</i> <i>Administrator</i>		+32 498 981 390 42078 74618	ATR 01K040 SDM G04007
<i>TOTAL NUMBER</i>	2		
<i>POLITICAL GROUP STAFF</i>			
<i>Ms. Madalina STOIAN</i> Political adviser	EPP	42528 78114	ASP 05H340 WIC M04111
<i>Mr. Petros KOUPEGKOS</i> Political adviser	S&D	43257 75723	ATR - 04L006 SDM - G03017
<i>TOTAL NUMBER</i>	2		
<i>OTHERS</i>			
<i>Mr Antonios KAILIS</i> <i>EP Info Office in Greece</i>		ATH - 0030 2103278900 STR - 72263	BUR.INF.ATHENES
<i>TOTAL NUMBER</i>	1		
<i>INTERPRETERS</i>			
<i>BAYER</i> Leader	DE		
<i>SIHN</i>	DE		
<i>MARKEL</i>	EN		
<i>PETSALIS-DIOMI</i>	EN		
<i>MAKRI</i>	EL		
<i>PAPAHADJOPOULO</i>	EL		
<i>TOTAL NUMBER</i>	6		



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FOR ANY INFORMATION PLEASE ADDRESS TO:

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Administrator
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European Parliament

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Or

Eivyda BUDVYTYTE

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Committee on Regional Development (REGI)
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Tel: + 32 2 28 32134 (BXL)

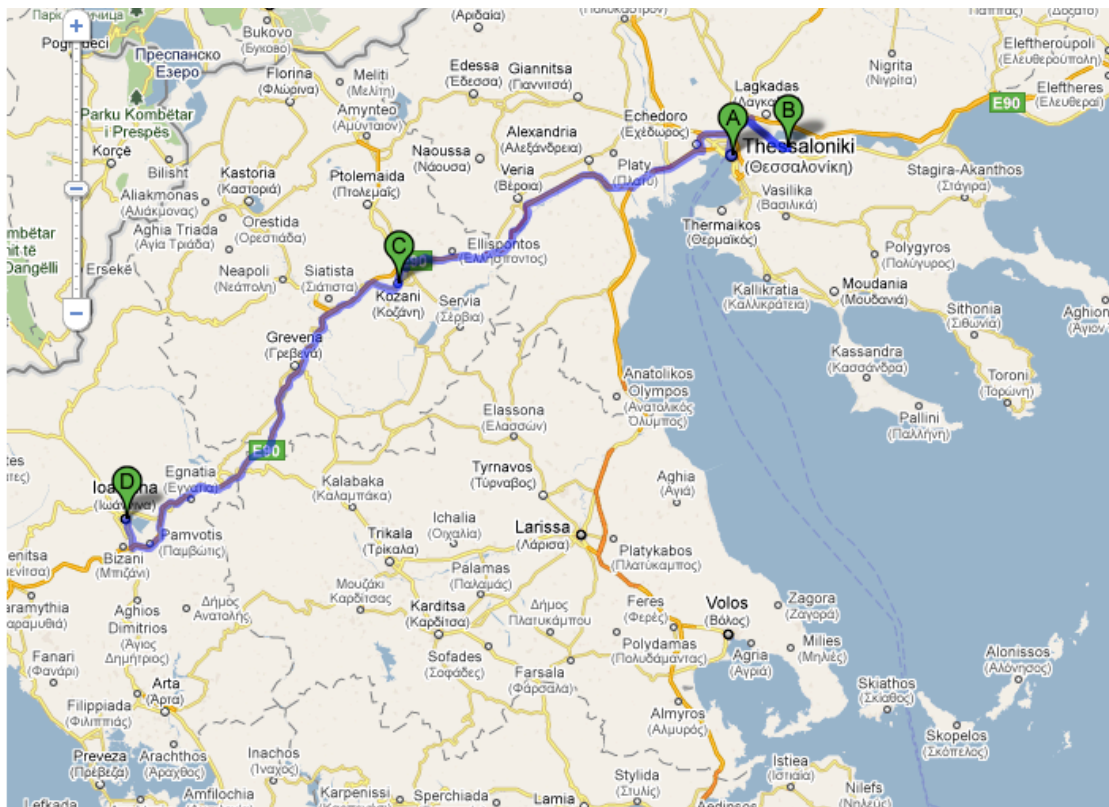
Fax: + 32 2 28 44926

Email: eivyda.budvytyte@europarl.europa.eu



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Itinerary Map





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Wednesday 13 July 2011

Description of projects



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Description of projects

PROJECT: "THESSALONIKI METRO"

The Thessaloniki Metro is a major “bridge” project (i.e. a project implemented under two programming periods) with the aim to serve about 250.000 passengers/day. Stage A was financed under the OP “Road axes; Ports Urban Development” with a total allocation of EUR 199.934.184 (ERDF participation EUR 99.967.092) and covered the construction of 9,6 Km of metro lines, 13 stations and the acquisition of 18 wagons. Stage A encompasses also different preliminary studies, preparatory works, excavations etc. The estimated completion date was October 2012 but the project suffered of important delays, mainly due to expropriations, to the award of contracts and to archeological excavations (completed by 45%). So far, the civil engineer works have been completed by 36,5% and the tunnel construction by 55%. Due to these difficulties, it seems that the beneficiary (“Attico Metro” SA) envisages the modification of the initial planning.

For Stage B of this major project, to be implemented in period 2007-2013, there is no information besides the fact that national authorities envisage to transfer this project from the regional programme “Macedonia and Thrace” to the national programme “Environment” and that its estimated budget would be about EUR 250m.



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Information on Thessaloniki

Thessaloniki, historically also known as **Thessalonica** or **Salonica**, is the second-largest city in Greece and the capital of the periphery of Central Macedonia as well as the de facto capital of the Greek region of Macedonia. The city was founded around 315 BC by the King Cassander of Macedon. He named it after his wife Thessalonike, a half-sister of Alexander the Great (*Thessalo-nikē* meaning "Thessalian Victory"). According to the Kallikratis reform, as of 1 January 2011 the Thessaloniki Urban Area is made up of six self-governing municipalities and one municipal unit. Prior to the Kallikratis reform, Thessaloniki was made up of twice that many municipalities, considerably smaller in size, which created bureaucratic problems.



Thessaloniki is Greece's second major economic, industrial, commercial and political centre. It is customary every year for the Prime Minister of Greece to announce his administration's policies on a number of issues, such as the economy, at the opening night of the Thessaloniki International Trade Fair. In 2010, during the first months of the 2010 Greek debt crisis, the entire cabinet of Greece met in Thessaloniki to discuss the country's future.



Concert Hall

Furthermore, Thessaloniki is considered northern Greece's cultural and educational centre. It is home to numerous notable Byzantine monuments, including the Paleochristian and Byzantine monuments of Thessalonika, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as well as several Ottoman and Sephardic Jewish structures. The city's main university, Aristotle University, is the largest in Greece and ranked among the best 250 universities in Europe.

Economy

Thessaloniki is a major port city and an industrial and commercial centre. The city's industries centre around oil, steel, petrochemicals, textiles, machinery, flour, cement, pharmaceuticals, and liquor.

The city's port is one of the largest ports in the Aegean and, as a free port, it functions as a major gateway to the Balkan hinterland: the city is also a major transportation hub for the whole of south-eastern Europe. Recently Thessaloniki is also slowly turning into a major port for cruising in the eastern Mediterranean.

In recent years, the city has suffered industrial restructuring and lost many jobs; while it is moving toward a more service-based economy. Nevertheless Thessaloniki still remains a major business hub in the Balkans: a number of important Greek companies are headquartered in Thessaloniki, such as the Hellenic Vehicle Industry, the Macedonian Milk Industry and Philkeram-Johnson. A considerable percentage of the city's working force is employed in small and medium-sized businesses, as well as in the service and the public sectors. The GDP of the prefecture of Thessaloniki was €18.4 billion in 2004, and the GDP per capita of the prefecture was €17,394, which was above Greece's GDP per capita at the time.

source: Wikipedia



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Thursday 14 July 2011

Description of programme elements and projects



Description of projects

PROJECT: "LAKE KORONIA AND DEVIATION OF THE TORRENTS OF SKOLARIOU AND LAGKADIKIOU "
PRESENTATION: Mrs. Dimitra C. Bobori, President of the Managing Agency for the lakes of Koroneia and Volvis

Koronia lake, an internationally important wetland in the region of Thessaloniki, is designated as Natura 2000 site (GR1220001), together with lake Volvi. These two lakes are connected by a canal. Both are threatened by “aggressive” land uses, eutrophication and urbanization, with lake Koronia more threatened. The surface of the lake was approximately 4620 ha before 1980 with a maximum depth of 6 m. Since then it has experienced a progressive decrease in surface and a deterioration in water quality.

The European Commission in January 2011 referred Greece to the European Court of Justice for its failure to protect Koronia. In fact, the lake has been seriously affected by pollution and illegal water abstraction, with serious consequences for local fauna and flora. Although a comprehensive plan is in place to rehabilitate the lake, with many actions co-financed by EU funds, progress has been slow. At the recommendation of Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik, the Commission is therefore referring the case to the Court of Justice.

Following investigations by the Commission in 2002 into the pollution and degradation of the lake, the Greek authorities agreed to put in place a specific legal framework to address illegal activities on the site. A comprehensive action plan was put in place in 2004 to rehabilitate the wetland, with the bulk of actions to be co-financed by the EU funds. These actions include improving the physical characteristics of the lake (such as water level and depth), irrigation networks and the construction of sewerage and waste water treatment systems for the neighbouring agglomerations. The EU co-financing was conditional on concrete action to close illegal boreholes and control discharges of urban and industrial waste water into the lake. But the Commission has learned that many of the measures have still not been put into practice, and that most of the conditions set for the financing have not been implemented. A letter of formal notice was issued, followed by a reasoned opinion in May 2010 (see [IP/10/525](#)). Scant progress has now led the Commission to summon Greece before the Court. In addition, the Commission is now reviewing the EU co-financing decision and considers not to cancel the Cohesion Fund granting Decision.

The total allocation foreseen in the above Decision is EUR 26.910.000, and the Cohesion Fund contribution is EUR 20.182.500.000.
For the two torrents, the services of DG REGIO do not have any particular information.



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PROJECT: "VERGINA RUINS"

PRESENTATION: Mrs. Athanasia Kyriakou, Archeologist and assistant of Ms. Paliadeli (MEP and Pr.Dr. in Archeology)

This project is co-financed by the ERDF in the framework of the OP "Macedonia-Thrace" 2007-2013. The total allocation amounts to EUR 7.000.000 and it covers the third stage of restructuring of the royal tombs and of the palace. For both sites, extensive works of restoration are provided as well actions for the general public (website etc).

The city of Aigai, the ancient first capital of the Kingdom of Macedonia, was discovered in the 19th century near Vergina, in northern Greece. The most important remains are the monumental palace, decorated with mosaics and painted stuccoes, and the burial ground with more than 300 tumuli, some of which date from the 11th century B.C. One of the royal tombs in the Great Tumulus is identified as that of Philip II, who conquered all the Greek cities, paving the way for his son Alexander and the expansion of the Hellenistic world.

On the lid of the larnax (a type of small closed coffin, box or "ash-chest") of Philip II there is a symbol of a sun or star and this Vergina Sun has been adopted as a symbol of Greek Macedonia. It became the subject of international controversy in 1991 when the newly independent Republic of Macedonia used the symbol on its flag. This outraged Greek public opinion, which saw the use of the symbol as an insult to its historical heritage and implying a territorial claim on Greece. In 1995 the Republic of Macedonia was forced to change its flag (sources: UNESCO website and Wikipedia).

Since 1996 the archeological site has been inscribed among the World Heritage Sites by UNESCO on the basis of cultural criteria, considering that the site is of "outstanding universal value representing an exceptional testimony to a significant development in European civilization, at the transition from classical city-state to the imperial structure of the Hellenistic and Roman periods"³.

³ World Heritage Convention website, <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/780/>



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PROJECT: "EGNATIA MOTORWAY"

PRESENTATION: Mrs Sakoubeta Eleni and Mrs Stefanidou, representatives from the Egnatia Odos project

Egnatia Motorway, is one of the most emblematic interventions of the ERDF and of the Cohesion Fund in Greece with a total contribution of some EUR 2.4 million. Egnatia crosses Northern Greece and connects Igoumenitsa port in Epirus (entrance from Italy) with Kipi in Thrace (frontier with Turkey). Its length is around 670 Km and links major cities of Epirus, Macedonia and Thrace, 4 ports and 6 airports. It encompasses 50 exchangers, 350 access roads, 1650 bridges (40 Km) and 76 tunnels (50 Km). Egnatia is connected with vertical axes with Albania, FYROM and Bulgaria. Certain of these axes are under construction with EU support. With the construction of the vertical axes, Egnatia will be a collector route for the Balkans and South-Eastern European transport system as Pan-European corridors IV (Berlin-Sofia-Thessaloniki), IX (Helsinki-Alexandroupolis) and X (Vienna-Belgrade-Thessaloniki).

Specific measures (including tunnels) have been taken for the protected species of bear but, recently there were road accidents with bear victims.

PROJECT: "SMART VILLAGE "

This is a pilot project co-financed under the national programme "Information Society" (2000-2006) with a total allocation EUR 2,3m. It provided optic fibre to all houses of an agglomeration outside Kozani (550 km²) and connected services (eg e-learning, internet access, video-phones for internal communications, TV and video services).

PROJECT: "DIADYMA "

Diadyma is a successful project of waste management infrastructure, including a sanitary landfill (XYTA), local units of waste management in Amyntaio, Voios, Grevena; Kastoria, Serbia, Siatista and Florina and the respective equipment. This infrastructure serves the municipalities of West Macedonia, supported by the Cohesion Fund by decisions C(2001) 4068 and C(2005) 5286. The total allocation amounts to EUR 12.974.868 and the Cohesion Fund had participated with EUR 9.731.151.



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Information on Kozani

Kozani is the capital of Kozani peripheral unit, located in the western part of Macedonia, in the northern part of the Aliakmonas river valley. After the 2011 reform, the municipality Kozani was formed merging 5 former municipalities, and it is rapidly becoming a nodal town of the Western Balkans. Within this context, the municipality of Kozani is creating a modern satellite town, the Kozani Zone of Alternate Urban Planning (ZEP). The Municipal Corporation of alternate planning and development of Kozani S.A.(DEPEPOK) was established in order to implement the projects of the ZEP. The ZEP is strategically located on 50 ha south-west of Kozani, and aims to become a model development centre, attracting an urban population and economic activities from throughout Western Macedonia in Greece and the Western Balkans. Kozani is the home of the Technological Educational Institute of Western Macedonia and the University of Western Macedonia, with about 15,000 students from all over Greece.



Clock Tower

Economy

The city is mostly known for its important contribution to the Greek electricity supply (80% of the total is produced in the region), and a large part of the population works in the factories which produce electricity from coal (DEI - Greek national electrical company).

source: Wikipedia



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Friday 15 July 2011

Description of projects



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Description of projects

PROJECT: "SANITARY LANDFILL OF ELLINIKON"

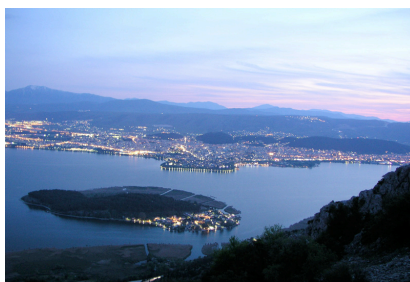
PRESENTATION: Mr Vasso Kostoula, Authority responsible for the supervision of the project DEKE (Projects Construction Control Unit) of the Region of Epirus

This is a "bridge-project". It has a total capacity of 2.668.461 m³ and an expected lifetime of 20 years. Under the Regional programme "Epirus" (2000-2006) the total allocation amounted to EUR 1.2m.

PROJECT: "NEW PART OF HATZIKOSTA HOSPITAL"

PRESENTATION: Mr Kostas Spiropoulos, Authority responsible for the supervision of the project DEPANOM (the public company responsible for hospital construction)

This project concerns the acquisition of new medical equipment (in particular, a scanner and dental equipment for people with special needs) and as well as of new "hotel" equipment for the renovated part of the Hatzikosta Hospital. Thos project has been supported under the Regional Programme "Epirus" (2000-2006) with a total allocation of EUR 344,990.52.



Ioannina and [Lake Pamvotida](#) seen from Mitsikeli mountain

Information on Ioannina

Ioannina is the largest city of Epirus, north-western Greece, with a metropolitan population of approximately 140,000. It is the capital of Ioannina peripheral unit and the Periphery of Epirus.

Founded by the Byzantine Emperor Justinian in the 6th century AD, Ioannina flourished following the Fourth Crusade, when many wealthy Byzantine families fled there in the early 13th century following the sack of Constantinople. It was the capital of the Despotate of Epirus from 1358 to 1416, before surrendering to the Ottomans in 1430. Between 1430 and 1868 the city was the administrative center of the Pashalik of Yanina. In the period between the 16th and 19th centuries, the city was a major center of the modern Greek Enlightenment. Ioannina joined Greece in 1913 following the Balkan Wars.



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The ancient theatre of Dodona, near Ioannina

The city's emblem consists of the portrait of the Byzantine Emperor Justinian crowned by a stylized depiction of the nearby ancient theater of Dodona.



The region of Ioannina is well known for the production of feta cheese. The area is also famous for its spring water Zagori, which is sold over much of Greece.

Ioannina is famous throughout Greece for its silverwork, with a plethora of shops selling silver jewelry, bronzeware and decorative items (serving trays, recreations of shields and swords, etc.). The style of the jewelry and artwork tends to reflect more Turkish sensibilities than Greek ones, likely due to the lengthy Turkish occupation of the area.

source: Wikipedia



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Annex I : Note of the Commission on transparent application of structural and cohesion Funds

Ref. Ares(2011)648491 - 16/06/20



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
REGIONAL POLICY
Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Romania, IPA/ISPA accession negotiations
Greece and Cyprus

Brussels,
REGIO.I.3/EB/ed D(2011)

NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF MR UNTERWURZACHER HEAD OF UNIT REGIO.D.1

Subject: Request of information from the European Parliament in view of a visit of REGI Committee delegation to Epirus- West and Central Macedonia.

In reply to the specific requests of the EP REGI Committee Secretariat (e-mail of 7 June 2011 sent by Mrs Tello Clusella – Letter from Dr Markus Pieper- EP of 31 May 2011), please note the following:

1. Transparent application of structural and cohesion Funds

Commission financial correction decision C (2005)1731 -ERDF

In accordance with Article 6 of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 438/2001, the Commission services examined the information on management and control systems for financial management of Community co-financing under the ERDF during the programming period 2000-2006 and identified serious weaknesses. Because of the seriousness of the deficiencies still remaining at the end of 2003, the Commission services asked the Greek authorities to address the deficiencies in their management and control systems. The Greek authorities and the Commission in early 2004 agreed on an action plan including a list of actions to be taken by the Greek authorities, together with specific items to be delivered to the Commission as evidence of their fulfilment. The final deadline for all actions to be taken was 30 September 2004.

Following the analysis of the information provided by the Greek authorities on the progress achieved for the action plan, the Commission concluded that important actions had still not been implemented.

In conclusion, as the Greek authorities did not regard past failing in the Greek management and control systems for ERDF and Greece's continuing failure to respect its obligations under Article 39(1) of Regulation (EC) n°1260/1999 in respect of irregularities identified by the Commission and acknowledged by Greece, a financial correction of 25% was decided for ERDF assistance paid by the Commission for the years 2000 to 2004. Therefore a Commission Decision C(2005)1731 was adopted on 7 June 2005 cancelling part of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) assistance to the Hellenic Republic.

Commission européenne, B-1049 Bruxelles / Europese Commissie, B-1049 Brussel - Belgium. Telephone: (32-2) 299 11 11.
Office: CSM2 6/11. Telephone: direct line (32-2) 29+32 2 2950800
G:\EB\Questionsecrites\2011\REGI 13-15 July 2011_Epirus_West_Central Macedonia.doc
http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/
E-mail: elehn.banavas@ec.europa.eu



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More concretely,

a) A net financial correction of 25% was imposed on payments certified until 31 December 2004 resulting to an amount of EUR 682 million. Taking into consideration that the Greek authorities had already applied a financial correction of EUR 164 million an amount of EUR 518 million was recovered from the Greek authorities in 4 tranches starting in October 2005

b) In addition, on this issue, the Greek authorities have applied a financial correction for payments which have been certified after 01 January 2005.

Commission financial correction decision C (2008) 5026 as modified by Decision C (2008) 8720 – Cohesion Fund

On 9 September 2008, the Commission has adopted a Decision (E(2008) 5026) related to financial corrections to be applied to closed or on going Cohesion Fund projects following systemic irregularities at the procedures followed for public procurement.

For the closed projects at the time the decision was adopted, an amount of EUR 6.318.431,07 was recovered from the Greek authorities.

For the financial corrections defined in relation to ongoing projects, the financial corrections are applied by the Paying authority during each payment request submitted to the Commission as foreseen by the above mentioned Commission Decision.

Sabine BOURDY
Head of Unit

Copies: Mr Seyler, Mrs Paleologou, Mr Padazatos, Mrs Zorbala, Mrs Argyrou,
Mrs Tello Clusella



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Annex II : Note of the Commission on the State of play of the implementation of Cohesion Policy in Greece



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

REGIONAL POLICY

Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Romania, IPA/ISPA accession negotiations

Greece and Cyprus

Brussels,
REGIO.I.3/MZ/ed D(2011)

**NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF MR UNTERWURZACHER,
HEAD OF UNIT REGIO.D.1**

Subject: Request of information from the European Parliament in view of a visit of REGI Committee delegation to Epirus- West and Central Macedonia.

In reply to the specific requests of the EP REGI Committee Secretariat (e-mail of 10 May 2011), please note the following:

1. State of play of the implementation of Cohesion Policy in Greece, with focus to the Regions of Epirus, West Macedonia and Central Macedonia:

(i) For period 2007-2013, the total allocation of the Structural Funds (ERDF +ESF) and of the Cohesion Fund for Greece amounts to EUR 20.210.261.445. The ERDF (EUR 12.149.300.178) and Cohesion Fund (EUR 3.697.160.864) participation totals EUR 15.846.461.042. So far, absorption, i.e. payments paid by the EU budget amount to EUR 4.934.521.416 which correspond to 24,42% of the total EU allocation. This percentage includes the advance of 7%. Compared to other Member States, Greece performs slightly below the EU-27 average (25,34%)

(ii) ERDF and Cohesion Fund interventions take place in the framework of five national programmes:

Programme	Total Allocation (EU+ National)	EU Payments
Accessibility	2.100.350.000	813.513.068
Competitiveness	1.519.000.000	564.503.587
Digital Convergence	1.075.000.000	144.880.540
Environment	1.975.000.000	261.213.148
Technical assistance	225.582.353	38.778.050



And five regional programmes:

Programme	Total allocation (EU+ National)	EU Payments
Macedonia & Thrace	3.264.500.000	802.439.171
Epirus, Thessaly & Continental Greece	1.473.995.714	389.154.730
Crete & Aegean Islands	1.194.000.178	221.901.568
Ionian Islands, Peloponnesus & West Greece	1.143.000.000	243.563.794
Attica	3.051.000.000	645.137.289

Structural interventions in Epirus are part of the programme “Epirus, Thessaly and Continental Greece” and structural interventions in West and Central Macedonia are parts of the programme “Macedonia & Thrace”. This regrouping of Regions under a limited number of operational programmes was done more for administrative purposes than for reasons related to common geographical and socio-economic features.

(iii) Like all regional programmes, structural interventions in Epirus, West Macedonia and Central Macedonia are built around three axes: Accessibility (mainly, roads), digital convergence and entrepreneurship (mainly, R&D and State aid to enterprises) and sustainable development (mainly, environment, urban interventions, education and health). As it can be seen in the tables below, the “sustainable development” axis represents approx. 50% of the total allocation and progresses slower than the other two axes. *DG REGIO services have stressed the need to accelerate the implementation for all axes and, in particular for the sustainable development axis.*

Moreover, like all regional programmes, the implementation of projects under the “Digital convergence & entrepreneurship” as well as the TEN projects and certain important transport projects has been transferred to the respective national programmes.

Epirus –Convergence objective

Priority Axis	Allocation	EU Payments
3. Accessibility	106.353.810	8.877.139
6. Sustainable Development	204.843.492	30.241.497
9. Digital Convergence & Entrepreneurship	99.102.698	34.088.252
12. Technical assistance	9.700.000	271.638
Total	420.000.000	73.478.526



West Macedonia- Convergence- Phasing out

Priority Axis	Allocation	EU Payments
2. Accessibility	92.536.000	30.187.512
5. Digital Convergence & Entrepreneurship	123.560.000	33.922.369
8. Sustainable Development	299.504.000	39.063..573
10. Technical assistance (West & Central Macedonia)	45.260.000	692..668
Total	560.860.000	103..866.122

Central Macedonia- Convergence- Phasing-out

Priority Axis	Allocation	Payments
1. Accessibility	410.000.000	55.700.676
4. Digital Convergence & Entrepreneurship	614.640.000	235.180.652
7. Sustainable Development	1.079.000.000	111.457.375
Total	2.103.640.000	402.338.703

Comments:

- The EU payments indicated in the tables have been paid after the submission of the statements of expenditure to the Commission (December 2010). They do not correspond to payments on the ground, which are higher. **NB.** By the date of the visit of the REGI Delegation, payments data may change and an update would be needed.
- None of these three regions (like the other GR regions) faces the de-commitment risk (N+3);
- Approximately from the amount allocated by axis, 60% corresponds to already selected projects, 47% to contracts and 22% to payments on the ground. This “unbalanced” progress of implementation is due –in part- to the rigidities of the national implementation system and to the length of certain procedures (e.g. expropriations, judicial reviews for the award of contracts, environmental and archeological licencing etc). In this context, the lack of an operational land register seriously undermines the implementation of projects. ERDF supports the “Land register” project which constitutes a priority intervention.

2. EU Cohesion policy and the financial crisis:

(i) European Economic Recovery Package: In this framework, the main measures adopted by the GR authorities concern State aids and financial engineering instruments:



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State aids: GR authorities allocated important amounts under ERDF to the thematic priority code 8 “Other assistance to SME’s”. Actually, this possibility was used rather excessively: Whereas EUR 500 million were decided for this type of intervention in 2009, currently it seems that about EUR 1.590m have been committed (end 2010). This can be problematic insofar as it might put at risk other types of basic interventions (infrastructures, R&D, innovation), which also can create employment. Moreover, if this type of aid is not well targeted, it can hardly create any added value.

Financial engineering:

JEREMIE – Financial Instruments. Despite that Greece was one of the first countries to sign a funding agreement with the EIF for the set-up of a holding fund, the first products (risk sharing financing facility (EUR 100m) and micro-financing (EUR 30m)) have reached the market only by the end of 2010. An existing financial mechanism (i.e. TEMPME – guarantee fund for SMEs) has been transformed to the "Entrepreneurship and Development Fund (ETEAN)", aiming to improve the competitiveness of the Greek SMEs. EUR 460m have been allocated to this Fund which is planning to invest in more than one financial engineering tools.

Another EUR 150m have been allocated under the JEREMIE Fund to Digital Convergence, with objectives and selection mechanisms still to be defined.

JESSICA interventions have received during 2010 allocations of EUR 256m. There is a need though to ensure the rapid selection and implementation of projects within JESSICA.

Energy Efficiency. With the modification of Article 7 of the ERDF regulation and of the new Article 44.c) of Regulation 1083/2006, up to EUR 396m are allocated for energy efficiency in housing.. The objective is to achieve 20-25% energy saving in the housing and the tertiary sector by 2015.

In conclusion more than EUR 1.000m have been allocated to financial engineering mechanisms in Greece during 2010. However, there is a clear need of good planning, of putting quickly in place the adequate structures and procedures and of tight monitoring of these interventions supposed to bring quickly positive effects to the real economy.

(ii) Greek Memorandum and Cohesion Policy:

At the difference of other, rather “restrictive”, measures of the Greek Memorandum of Understanding, the measures concerning the implementation of the Cohesion Policy aim at accelerating the absorption of EU Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund allocation. This means more investment, more payments on the ground, more employment, more cohesion and more possibilities for development. For the Structural Funds, the Memorandum provides for two types of measures:



(i) Financial measures: GR has to increase its annual rhythm of payments on the ground beyond the de-commitment ceiling and present to the Commission 15 major projects by year.

Under the GR Memorandum, the targets of absorption (in EUR million) of the EU contribution by the GR programmes are the following:

	2010	2011	2012	2013
ERDF and Cohesion Fund	2330	2600	2850	3000
ESF	420	750	880	890
Total	2750	3350	3730	3890

(ii) Non-financial measures: These measures, among other, encompass:

- Simplification measures (including legislative simplification) in a way to accelerate the selection of projects and the payments on the ground;
- Reduction of the *de minimis* non-targeted State aid schemes;
- Creation of an open website monitoring the approval and implementation of projects.

In addition, a broad range of measures included in the Greek memorandum are or can be supported by the Structural Funds: Land register, modernisation of the public health system by implementing different e-health measures, certain measures improving the investment attractiveness of the country etc.

While the 2010 Memorandum financial targets have been achieved, there are difficulties in achieving the 2011 targets. One major difficulty lays to the scarcity of the national public participation to the EU projects to be matched to the EU participation. The lack of national public participation adversely affects the rhythm of implementation of projects. GR Authorities consider the revision of the operational programmes. DG REGIO, with the exception of the OP “Technical assistance”, is not in favour of this initiative. In fact, as priority should be given to the implementation of projects on the ground in a way to accelerate EU payments, an extensive revision of the programmes risks to delay further this implementation.

As regards the non-financial measures, GR authorities already have or are being adopting measures to improve the legal framework of projects’ implementation.

3. Administrative reform:

The Devolution Law 3852/2010 (“Kallikrates”) entered in force on 1 January 2011 but for cohesion policy interventions, it will become effective from 1 July 2011.

The “Kallikrates” reforms constitute a major change for the administrative organisation of the country which can be outlined as follows:

(i) The territory is now divided in 7 large De-centralised Administrations, headed by a Secretary appointed by the State (Attica; Thessaly and Continental Greece; Epirus and West Macedonia; Aegean Islands; Crete; Central-East Macedonia and Thrace; Peloponnesus, Ionian islands and West Greece).



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EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT EUROOPA PARLAMENT ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EIROPAS PARLAMENTS
EUROPOS PARLAMENTAS EURÓPAI PARLAMENT IL-PARLAMENT EWROPEW EUROPEES PARLEMENT
PARLAMENT EUROPEJSKI PARLAMENTO EUROPEU EURÓPSKY PARLAMENT
EVROPSKI PARLAMENT EUROOPAN PARLAMENTTI EUROPAPARLAMENTET

(ii) The appointed Heads of the 13 Regions are now replaced by elected Governors. The administrative level of “Prefecture” (54 prefectures, before “Kallikrates”) has disappeared and their competences have been transferred either to the Regions or to the municipalities. Regions will be responsible –inter alia- for regional development, agricultural natural resources, trade, tourism, energy, industry, labour, transport, environment, land planning, health and education.

(iii) Entities operating at regional, prefectural and municipal level have been or will be merged: 1033 municipalities are now merged into 325 municipalities, which now are competent –inter alia- for the waste treatment, health and education (including the construction of schools). This constitutes an important saving of public expenditure.

(iv) Specific provisions have been provided for the islands and for the metropolitan areas of Athens and Thessaloniki.

These changes are reflected also in the implementation of the interventions of the regional programmes. *Firstly*, from 1 July 2011, the elected Governor of the Region will be responsible for the intermediate managing authorities of the programme. During the transitional period, this task is performed by the Head of the respective Decentralised Administration. *Secondly*, the composition of the monitoring committees of the regional programmes has to be changed, in order to reflect the new institutional framework. *Last but not least*, there is an important change at the level of beneficiaries and stakeholders with the creation of new “merged” municipalities, new municipal and regional entities and enterprises, including those operating in the field of water and waste treatment.

With the view to prevent problems in the implementation of the Structural Funds interventions linked with the “Kallikrates” reforms, the Commission services held a meeting with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Development and the Managing Authorities (May 2011).

So far, from our contacts with the Regional Authorities it seems that the “Kallikrates” reforms have not created major problems in the implementation of the Structural Funds interventions.

ⁱ Please note that the Committee delegations shall consist solely of full or substitute Members of the Committee, appointed by the Committee, assisted only by political group secretariats, a secretariat from Parliament's services and an interpretation service.

Only Members who are officially part of the delegation shall have the right to speak at official meetings. In principle, they shall put forward Parliament's official position on the matter under discussion. If Members outline a personal standpoint or a standpoint of their group, they shall indicate it clearly. On the Chair's authority, the Secretariat can take the floor (when necessary) in procedural issues or pertinent clarifications.