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GREECE

TRANSLATION OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION INTO ENGLISH

Greek legislation is published in the *Official Gazette of the Hellenic Republic* and is available only in Greek. Court decisions, also in Greek, are published by various publishers and legal periodicals. The Supreme Court (*Areios Pagos*) of Greece provides an unofficial English translation of a number of civil and criminal cases. The Council of State (*Symvouleio Epikrateias*) maintains an online database of its decisions, which are available in Greek.

I. Official Publications

Greek legislation is published upon being adopted by the Greek Parliament in the *Gazette*, the only official and authoritative source of Greek legislation:

- EPHEMERIS TES KYVERNESEOS TES HELLENIKES DEMOKRATIAS [OFFICIAL GAZETTE OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC], LC Call No. LAW GREECE 1 Gazette.

The Gazette is published by the National Printing Office, which is part of the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization (a hard copy is available upon subscription). It is also available online, at <http://www.et.gr>.

The Gazette is comprised of twelve sections. Legislation is published in the first two sections: *section A* includes laws, decrees, and international agreements (dating as far back as 1833 in hard copy and online); and *section B* offers decisions issued by the prime minister, ministers, or the governor of the Bank of Greece (dating back to 1951 in hard copy and to 1940 online).

The Parliament of Greece publishes recently adopted legislation, on its official website:

- HELLENIC PARLIAMENT, <http://www.hellenicparliament.gr/en/Nomothetiko-Ergo/Psifisthenta-Nomoschedia>. Although this website is in English, the laws are available only in Greek.

The Ministry of Justice offers a list of laws as well as some basic information in English on its website. All other ministry websites provide some pertinent legislation in Greek and basic information in English.

II. Court Reporters

Greece is a civil law country; therefore, court decisions do not create a precedent. The court system is divided into administrative, civil, and criminal courts. There are no official collections for court decisions.

The Council of State is the highest administrative court. Decisions of the Council are available on its website:

- SYMVOULEIO EPIKRATEIAS [COUNCIL OF STATE], http://www.ste.gr/councilofstate/index_gr.jsp (in Greek).

The Supreme Court is the highest court for civil and criminal cases. Decisions of the Supreme Court are available on the Court's website:

- AREIOS PAGOS [SUPREME COURT], <http://www.areiospagos.gr/en/INDEX.htm> (decisions are in Greek); unofficial Google translations of decisions available at <http://www.areiospagos.gr/en/INDEX.htm>.

There is no constitutional court in Greece. The constitutionality of laws is entrusted to all judges. The Supreme Judicial Court adjudicates issues involving the constitutionality of laws that arise from conflicting judgments adopted by the Supreme Court, the Council of State, or the Comptroller's Council. As of 2000, the decisions of the Supreme Judicial Court are published in a special section of the Gazette and are also available online, at http://www.et.gr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=82%3Afek-aed&catid=4%3A2009-09-18-13-23-57&Itemid=97&lang=el.

Decisions of lower courts are issued by private publishers, and several legal periodicals publish court decisions. In addition, summaries of important cases are available in bound volumes by several publishers, including Sakkoulas and Zacharopoulos.

III. Translations of Laws

There are no official English translations of Greek legislation or court decisions. The following are unofficial print sources:

- PENELOPE AGALLOPOULOU, BASIC CONCEPTS OF GREEK CIVIL LAW (Youlika Kotsovoulou Masry ed., trans., Ant.N. Sakkoulas, Athens; Staempfli, Berne; Bruylant, Brussels, 2005), LC Call No. KKE500 .A3313 2005.
- GREEK CIVIL CODE (Constantine Taliadoros ed., 1982), LC Call No. KKE494 3194 .A52 1982 GLOBAL.
- INTRODUCTION TO GREEK LAW (Konstantinos D. Kerameus & Phaedon J. Kozyris eds., Kluwer Law International, Alphen aan den Rijn, Netherlands, 3d rev. ed. 2008), LC Call No. KKE 68 .I57 2008.

IV. Online Resources

The Official Gazette is available online, at <http://et.gr> (see section I of this report). The Greek Parliament also offers content on their website, at <http://www.hellenicparliament.gr/en/Nomothetiko-Ergo/Psi-fisthenta-Nomoschedia> (see section I).

As stated in section II, some court decisions are also available online. As of 2000, the decisions of the Supreme Judicial Court are published in a special section of the *Gazette* and are also available at http://www.et.gr/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=82%3Afe-k-aed&catid=4%3A2009-09-18-13-23-57&Itemid=97&lang=el.

- SYMVOULEIO EPIKRATEIAS [COUNCIL OF STATE], http://www.ste.gr/councilofstate/index_gr.jsp (in Greek).
- AREIOS PAGOS [SUPREME COURT], <http://www.areiospagos.gr/en/INDEX.htm> (decisions are in Greek); unofficial Google translations of decisions available at <http://www.areiospagos.gr/en/INDEX.htm>.

The following are additional government online sources:

- GOVERNMENT.GOV.GR, <http://government.gov.gr/category/prwtovoulies-tis-kuvernisi/pws-prwtovoulies/nomos-prwtovoulies/> (in Greek), offers a list of bills submitted by the government.
- MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, <http://www.mfa.gr/en/the-ministry/international-conventions/>, provides some basic information in English and a list of eleven international treaties of historical significance to Greece as a state, as well as a list of international conventions ratified by Greece.

A translation of the Greek Constitution is also available from HR-Net:

- *The Constitution of Greece*, HR-NET, <http://www.hri.org/MFA/syntagma/>, offers unofficial translations by HR-Net, a project of the Hellenic Resources Institute.

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