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PRESS RELEASE

Special Report 2020: "Waste Management"

"The waste management policies that have been designed and implemented in the country have failed. It is also clear that the central and local administrations must significantly accelerate their interventions, in order for Greece to make up for lost time and approach, if not achieve the common European goals, albeit with a significant delay. The reasons that have led our country to this not at all enviable position among its partners are analyzed in this report "

This is noted, among others, by the Ombudsman Andreas Pottakis, prefacing the special report on "Waste Management" in Greece which has been published. This is an overall presentation of the magnitude of the problem of waste management in Greece, as recorded in detail by the experienced staff of the Independent Authority.

The proposals of the Ombudsman are also presented, which aim to overcome the chronic malfunctions and the inactivity of those involved. It is recalled that just two years ago the European Commission, which has undertaken the monitoring of the progress of the Member States in achieving the decided waste management / recycling targets, issued an early warning report for Greece, which envisages specific priority actions that should be implemented immediately to fill the gap. It is characteristic that our country is in the last positions among the Member States in terms of the degree of achievement of the recycling targets, for all categories of waste (municipal, construction and demolition waste, hazardous waste, electrical and electronic equipment, packaging).

According to the special report, "the largest number of cases investigated by the Ombudsman concern the uncontrolled dumping of municipal solid waste, resulting in systematic degradation of the environment and causing fires. The relevant complaints submitted to the Authority also include cases in which citizens complain about the real and legal irregularities that are very common in the process of siting solid waste management projects and landfills, as well as administrative omissions during construction and operation of landfills. In addition, there is a serious issue of non-compliance with environmental conditions during the operation of existing waste management projects. In addition to the above, the number of complaints regarding problems identified in the management of excavation, construction and demolition waste is also significant "

This Special Report is dedicated by the Ombudsman to the recently departed Deputy Ombudsman Ionas Sagias as a sign of gratitude for his offer and the deep and indelible mark he leaves on his associates in the Authority.

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