



SPECIAL REPORT

THE COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

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November 2013

SUMMARY

In September 2013, the Greek Ombudsman submitted a special report, which outlines the maladministration problems, related to the management of the coastal zone. The findings of the Greek Ombudsman, were based on the investigation of numerous complains which were related to: the statutory deadlines within which the determination procedure must be completed, the management, the exploitation and the environmental protection of the coastal zone.

The Greek Ombudsman noticed:

Technical and administrative gaps as well as the under-staffing, of the Public Services that are responsible for the protection of public property.

Serious delays related to:

- a) The committees' formation procedures,
- b) The investigation of the foreshore determination cases,
- c) The administrative support among the jointly liable environmental public services.

d) The unwillingness of a) the Public Property Services, b) the Municipal and Prefectural authorities as well as c) the decentralized regional authorities, to implement the legislation for the demolition of illegal constructions as well as the expropriation and the expulsion from downtrodden areas.

e) The unwillingness of the Municipal and Regional authorities as well as the port administration authorities, to manage, in an environmentally-correct manner the right of the foreshore concession to the entrepreneurs. That includes either the foreshore zone or the landside port area and thus the public use of these areas is not ensured. f)The unwillingness of the Public Property Services to apply their supervisory responsibilities.

g) The circumvention of environmental control procedures, and the subsequent approval of large construction projects on the coastal zone and the respective attempts of post legalization.

h) The lack of control mechanisms related to the accuracy of foreshore determination as well as the accuracy of the relevant protocols. Likewise, the lack of mechanisms for the concession of the foreshore zone and landside port area use.

The Greek Ombudsman proposes:

- The staffing of the prefectural public property authorities with specialized personnel. This should be combined with the procurement of the necessary technical equipment to meet the requirements for the collection and analysis of scientific data relative to foreshore determination. This procurement should be accomplished with the assistance and the collaboration of the central services of the Ministry of Finance.
- The respect of the statutory deadlines from the different public authorities, responsible for the foreshore determination procedures.
- Systematic monitoring of: a) the supervisory authorities by the central government, b) the authorities responsible for the demolition of illegal constructions, c) the municipal and regional authorities and d) the peripheral governmental authorities. Monitoring should be focused especially on cases of long delays in the procedures of foreshore and beach definition, as well as towards the imposition of the sanctions in cases of unjustified delays.

- Systematic monitoring by the prefectural public property authorities, of the concession right of the foreshore zone, and its correct management from the municipal and regional authorities
- The establishment of an appropriate supervisory authority, for the control of the accuracy of the protocols for the determination of the foreshore, the old foreshore and the beach zone, or even the specific contracts of the concession right of the foreshore zone.