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PRESS RELEASE

Tax gender equality

The Ombudsman welcomes the recent judgment of the Council of State (no 330/2018) concerning the possibility of the spouses to file a separate income tax return.

The Ombudsman stresses that the judgment in question fulfils a long-standing request of the Independent Authority, expressed in the context of its effort to achieve gender equality in tax issues, undertaken since 2002.

As it is made obvious from the relevant documents to the Independent Authority for Public Revenue (AADE) (www.synigoros.gr/resources/eggrafostp-pros-aade.pdf), the Ombudsman has stressed repeatedly the necessity for eliminating direct sex discrimination contained in the tax legislation as a whole and in particular in Article 67 Paragraph 4, Law 4172/2013, stating that these discriminations, due to the generalised computerisation of tax services, no longer serve the objectives of a well-functioning tax administration nor the more efficient collection of public revenue; the CoS judgment has now concurred with the previous findings of the Ombudsman.

Pending the response of the tax administration to the judgment of the Council of State, the Ombudsman underlines that, had the tax authorities used the fruitful dialogue with the Ombudsman in a more effective way, they would have contributed decisively to the implementation of the constitutional principle of equal treatment, strengthened the citizens' trust in them and saved time and money.

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