



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
HELLENIC REPUBLIC

Commitments of Greece at the Summit for Democracy

Greece, as the country in which democracy was born, is very keen on making it more resilient. President Biden's initiative to convene this Summit is particularly well-timed.

The battle to sustain and enforce Democracy against authoritarianism and potential violations of human rights and the rule of law must be global and systematic. In order to defend those values Greece has introduced special policy agendas: the rule of law agenda; the accountability agenda; the anti-corruption agenda; the inclusiveness agenda.

Regarding **rule of law**, Greece: (a) launched a mega project targeting better legislation and codification of legislation, so as all existing laws are set to be codified in the next few years to combat polynomy and poor legislation and new laws are voted under very strict terms of clarity and visibility; (b) has a keen interest in supporting initiatives targeting dissidents, for instance we invited almost 700 Afghan women and their families to come to Greece after the latest developments; (c) shall introduce in 2022 a new approach to combating Holocaust denial and disinformation on the internet through the Greek Presidency of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance; and (d) will continue focusing on the principles of the Athens Declaration on “Effectively responding to a public health crisis in full respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law” in the aftermath of the pandemic.

Regarding **accountability** of the executive branch of government, Greece: (a) imposed an obligation on the government timely to make public the yearly Single Governmental Masterplan as well as governmental plans per ministry (including key public policies, regulatory roadmap and recruitment) so as people can assess the performance of the government against formal and quantitative targets; and (b) allowed the opposition in parliament through constitutional amendment the launching of official parliamentary inquiries for public matters, as a means effectively to control governmental affairs.

Regarding **anti-corruption**, Greece: (a) established then National Transparency Authority, a fully independent and impartial mechanism to control the administration altogether, pursuant to international best practices and by using innovative tools of external audit and internal checks and balances; (b) strengthened the competence of the Court of Audit which is the constitutional guardian of budgetary integrity of the state; (c) proceeded to a mass transfer of non-political competences, especially those involving financial transactions, from the ministers and general secretaries to the ordinary administration agencies and to public employees, thus significantly combating bureaucracy and political corruption; (d) widely enhanced digital governance by enabling 1.300 services to be dealt digitally, resulting in 2021 in an estimate of 300 million digital transactions, thus reducing time and cost and reducing physical transaction which allows corruption; (e) proposes the gradual harmonization of the cadastral systems of the countries of the Regional Cooperation Council in South-East Europe, in order to promote transparency on transnational landed property transfers; and (f) shall adopt in 2022 a national action plan against corruption for the period 2022-2025.

Regarding **inclusiveness**, Greece is strongly committed to inclusive public policies, a new model of regulation through horizontal synergies, especially for those underrepresented or vulnerable through a series of National Action Plans. In this respect: (a) an action plan for the rights of disabled people with 6 pillars and 30 specific policy actions is implemented as of 2021; (b) a national LGBTIQ+ equality strategy is implemented as of 2021; (c) an action plan for the rights of children, as well as for the prevention of children's sexual abuse has already been presented to the parliament; (d) an action plan on gender equality, as well as on women, peace and security is on public consultation and will be launched shortly; (e) an action plan for the youth will be launched in 2022; and (f) hundreds of law-enforcement officials and front-line service providers will be trained in 2022 through the National Referral Mechanism, so as to be able to identify indicators of vulnerability for the protection and referral of presumed victims, as well as for their social reintegration as a means to combat Trafficking in Persons.

Finally, Greece, a long-standing staunch supporter of international law and the principles of the UN Charter, has endorsed the Declaration Against the Use of Arbitrary Detention in State-to-State Relations and will continue to support it in 2022.