



HELLENIC REPUBLIC

Ministry of Economy and Finance
General Secretariat of Public Investments and PA

Athens, 27-10-2023

Protocol No. : 99971 - 27-10-2023

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To: Mr. Normunds Popens
European Commission
Directorate-General for
Regional and Urban Policy

Subject: Need to accelerate and improve waste investments in Greece
Related: Your letter No. 6861624/10.10.2023

Dear Mr Popens,

Thank you for your letter and most of all for your sincere and swift support in our common effort to address in the most effective way, part of the country's comprehensive plan to cover the needs arising from the recent disasters, through the use of EU Funds of 2014-2020 period.

We agree that as you mention in your letter, waste management plays an important role in the overall transition of our economy. And it is also true that although Greece has made a significant progress regarding the issue of solid waste management, a lot remains to be done. We welcome and agree with your proposal for the establishment of a joint working group with the participation of both ministries of Economy and Finance and Energy and Environment, as well as Commissions services, aiming to ensure through the implementation of a concrete action plan, an efficient and effective realization of solid waste investments.

Part of this action plan will comprise of specific milestones for quick finalization of the Regional Plans that will be in line with the National Waste Management Plan that has been adopted by the Greek Government.

We can also assure you that we reiterate our commitment to the agreed concept of Recovery and Recycling Facilities, aiming to a visible raise in our recycling performance.



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Finally, rest assured that the issue of administrative capacity building of the beneficiaries and in particular FODSAS is under elaboration as a part of the agreed Capacity Building package included in the Programme Technical Assistance and Support for Beneficiaries 2021-27 and this could also be addressed in the Action Plan. Regarding FODSAS, we have already taken significant measures, such as:

- Establishment of two new FODSAS in South Aegean and Ionian Islands regions with the appropriate staffing
- Reduction of the number of FODSAS in Crete region (from 3 to 2) and in North Aegean region (from 4 to 2)
- Approval of additional 91 employment positions , by Ministerial Act
- New merges in existing FODSAS are to be approved by the end of 2023 [In Thessaly region, in Western Greece region - reduction (from 3 to 2) and in North Aegean region].
- By the end of 2023, we will have finalized an action plan, regarding the increase of recycling rate, according to EU standards.
- Greece, having the right according to the relevant European regulation, will submit a request for a 5-year extension of the achievement of the recycling rate targets (55% separate collection) foreseen for 2025. Based on our planning, in 2030, Greece will be very close to achieving these goals.

Thanking you again for your support, we remain at your disposal for any further cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Dimitris Skalkos

Emmanouil Grafakos

**General Secretary
for Public Investments and NSRF**

**General Secretary
for the Coordination of Waste Management**

**ΑΚΡΙΒΕΣ ΑΝΤΙΓΡΑΦΟ
Ο προϊστάμενος του Τμήματος Εξυπηρέτησης
Κοινού και Πρωτοκόλλου**

**κ.α.α.
ΚΟΝΤΗ ΧΡΙΣΤΙΝΑ**



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CC:

Mr. Georgios ZERVOS, Special Secretary for European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund

Mr. Ioannis FIRBAS, General Director - National Coordination Authority, Ministry of National Economy and Finance

Ms. Zoi GEORGOPOULOU, General Director - Institutional and Operational Support, Ministry of National Economy and Finance

Mr. Paul SPEIGHT, Head of Unit E.3, DG Environment, European Commission



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