

PART FOUR

PEER REVIEW OF GREECE BY THE DAC/OECD



D-1 Peer Review Procedure

The DAC is a forum for bilateral donors to exchange experience and to address issues of common interest or concern. Its overarching objective is the continuous improvement of MS efforts in all areas of development assistance, through the exchange of good practices and the promotion of coordination and collaboration among members.

In order to promote the process of acquiring experience, the DAC undertakes, every 4-5 years on average, reviews and assessments (Peer Reviews) of each MS development co-operation system.

The main objectives of the Peer Reviews are:

- To monitor DAC members' development co-operation policies and programs and as far as possible, to assess their effectiveness, inputs, outputs and results against the goals and policies agreed in the DAC, as well as nationally established objectives and internationally agreed goals.
- To assist in improving individual and collective aid performance in both qualitative and quantitative terms.
- To provide comparative reporting and credible analysis for wider publics in OECD countries and the international community.
- To identify good practices, share experience, and foster coordination.

Within this framework, the second review of Greece by the DAC/OECD was carried out in various stages from June to November 2006. In particular:

Stage A (19-23/6/2006)

During this Stage, an examining team, composed of representatives of the DAC Secretariat and the two reviewing countries (Luxembourg and New Zealand), visited Athens between 19th and 23rd of June 2006, as follows:



- Mr. R. Carey, Deputy Director of the Development Co-operation Directorate,
- Mrs. C. Verger, Officer of the Peer Review Department,
- Mr. S. Scott, Officer of the Statistics Department,
- Mrs. S. Lee, Representative of New Zealand in the DAC and reviewer,
- Mr. C. Biever, Representative of Luxembourg in the DAC and reviewer,

Mrs. J. Randel, external associate of the DAC, competent for emergency humanitarian aid issues, visited Greece on 4-5/9/2006, since the competent DAC employee, Mrs. F. Cook could not visit Greece in June.

Within the framework of the visit, and according to the program that was drawn up by HELLENIC AID, the DAC representatives met with the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Evripidis Stilianidis, with the Secretary-General for International Economic Relations and Development Co-operation, Mr. Theodoros Skylakakis, as well as with the officers of

HELLENIC AID. Meetings followed, with representatives from all Bodies implementing development co-operation programs (Ministries, Legal Entities, etc.), NGO representatives, representatives of the Greek Parliament and journalists.

Stage B (10-13/7/2006)

The Peer Review process of the Greek policy of development co-operation and assistance anticipated also for a “field trip” review. Albania was selected for this purpose. Therefore, an examining team, consisting of members from the DAC Secretariat, from the two reviewing countries and from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited Albania (10 to 13 of July 2006).

Within the framework of the visit, according to the program drawn up by the Greek Embassy in Tirana, the DAC representatives met with:

- the Ambassador and the personnel of the Greek Embassy in Tirana,
- the Prime Minister and a number of Ministers of the Albanian Government,
- representatives of other donor countries and International Organisations active in Albania.

Furthermore, they visited representative Greek development assistance projects implemented in Albania. Indicatively:

- provision of an axial scanner in the diagnostic center “Evangelismos” in Tirana
- construction of “Omiros” School in Korce
- construction of a School in Himare
- information technology networking in the University of Gjirokaster
- installation of an electrical transformer and power supply at the water supply substation – coverage of drinking water wells in Shkoder
- reconstruction of a Primary School in Shkoder

Stage C (22/11/2006)

The review process culminated in a formal Peer Review meeting that was held in the headquarters of the OECD in Paris, where on the one hand the Greek Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Evripidis Stilianidis, presented the Greek views and on the other the examiners presented the findings of the review team. Moreover, the DAC recommendations/proposals were also presented, as regards the future of Greek development co-operation. During the meeting, discussion also took place on the papers “DAC’s Main Findings and Recommendations” and “Secretariat Report” that included a section on the field visit review, as well as on the draft Press Release. The DAC President, Mr. Richard Manning, presided at the proceedings of the meeting.

Visit of the President of the DAC in Athens (20/3/2006)

The review was preceded (20-3-2006) by a one-day visit of the President of the DAC in Athens. During the visit, Mr. Manning met with the competent Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Evripidis Stilianidis and his Staff, as well as with HELLENIC AID personnel, and discussed the achievements of Greece in the development assistance sector during the years 2004-2005, as well as the international effort to scale up aid with a parallel enhancement of its effectiveness. A speech by the President of the DAC followed in the amphitheatre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the topic “The Process of Achieving the MDGs and the role of the DAC”, which was attended by the personnel of HELLENIC AID and other Bodies implementing development co-operation programs (Ministries, Legal Entities, NGOs, etc.).

D-2 Results – DAC/OECD Recommendations

The results of the Second Peer Review of the development assistance policies and programs of Greece by the DAC/OECD (2nd DAC Peer Review of Greece), are summarized in the final paper of the “DAC Main Findings and Recommendations” that stemmed after the discussions that took place on 22nd November 2006, during the final stage of the Peer Review procedure, at the OECD headquarters in Paris.

The Recommendations of the DAC, for improving effectiveness of development assistance provided by Greece, are set out hereunder.

Overall framework and new orientations

Recommendation DAC 1

Development of a strategic framework based on a long-term vision for the development assistance of Greece. The Framework should:

- reflect the comparative advantages of Greece,
- reaffirm poverty reduction as the central motivation for Greek aid,
- set objectives and principles.

Recommendation DAC 2

Since Greece has to cover considerable ground (significant increase in the amount of aid granted to regions beyond the Balkans) in order to reach the committed goals, on the one hand when it became a member of the DAC (ODA=0.20% of GNP by the year 2001) and on the other in the framework of the E.U (ODA=0.51% of GNI by 2010), in view of the fiscal difficulties it faces in order to meet the Maastricht norm (reduce deficit to under 3% of GNP) , it will be required to:

- further raise public awareness in order to be disposed positively to the large increase in funding of aid in the geographical areas where it will be distributed and
- enhance political support for the the large increase in the funding of aid, by further enhancing the dialogue with Parliament.

Aid volume and distribution

Recommendation DAC 3

Greece needs to address urgently the challenge of implementing its political commitment to reach the 0.51% ODA/GNI target by 2010. Tripling of ODA in relation to the levels of the year 2004 will be required.

Recommendation DAC 4

Build a medium-term geographical strategy for its development co-operation. In shaping this geographical strategy, Greece should be cautious to strike a balance between the need for continuity with its key partners in the region and the imperative of gradually adjusting its portfolio to reflect the fact that some of its current partner countries will not be eligible to receive ODA in the future, while ensuring continued public support.

Recommendation DAC 5

Greece should continue its current appropriate approach to sector concentration taking account of its comparative advantage, in order to maximise its aid effectiveness and concentrate the allocation of its resources on a core group of partner countries.

Recommendation DAC 6

Develop a more strategic approach to multilateral aid. Increase the share of aid to multilateral organizations other than the EC and adopt a more selective approach towards them.

Promoting policy coherence**Recommendation DAC 7**

Greece is encouraged to strengthen policy coherence for development as a government objective. A strong focus in the medium-term strategy would provide a solid foundation for developing a systematic, formal framework for inter-ministerial co-ordination.

Recommendation DAC 8

Greece should adjust existing structures to foster more systematic and selective attention to policy coherence for development. Greece could consider expanding the mandate of the Inter-ministerial Committee to cover policy coherence issues. To provide adequate analytical support, Hellenic Aid should have enough capacity to access information from other line ministries, the E.U and other sources.

Aid management and implementation**Recommendation DAC 9**

Greece should pursue the consolidation of its development co-operation system, as it will be required to manage by 2010 threefold resources in relation to the year 2004. The existing system is somewhat fragmented with 12 ministries involved in delivering bilateral and multilateral development assistance. Further consolidate its structure and bring the key development actors of Greek co-operation closer together in order to generate enhanced synergies and limit overlap. Examine other DAC members' experience, in order to structure the new enhanced system either by relying on different Ministries' capabilities, or by creating an implementing agency. The DAC recommends that HELLENIC AID should be established as the co-ordinating agency of Greek development co-operation.

Recommendation DAC 10

With a view to strengthening its capacity, HELLENIC AID should put in place all units of the organisational structure laid out in 2002, and rationalise its procedures. It should adopt a strategic approach to the management of its human resources in terms of recruitment, training and career development, and provide development assistance specialists to embassies in priority countries.

Recommendation DAC 11

Greece is encouraged to develop new ways of programming and delivering aid, in addition to an improved call-for-proposals system. Establishment of strategic country programs based on partners' own strategies in each priority country and review of its instruments in order to facilitate joint approaches with other donors and increase aid predictability. Efforts towards decentralising the program and further delegating authority should be pursued.

Recommendation DAC 12

Greece is encouraged to develop a results-based approach to its aid program. An Evaluation Unit, along with adequate mechanisms to build a knowledge management system linked to program management, should be set up. A priority should be to review the developmental relevance and impact of Greek tertiary scholarships schemes, given their importance in the Greek aid program.

Humanitarian aid

Recommendation DAC 13

As the scale of Greek humanitarian response grows, more formal systems of coordination within government and with external actors should be developed.

Recommendation DAC 14

The development of an explicit overall humanitarian strategy will help to ensure that all those contributing to the growing response do so on the basis of a clear statement of policy and priorities. Such a strategy would also provide transparent guidance on assessing the opportunity costs of different interventions.

Recommendation DAC 15

There is a case for further strengthening the capacity of embassies to contribute to humanitarian action in areas of protracted humanitarian crises.

Recommendation DAC 16

If, as expected, NGOs become more active partners in implementing Greek humanitarian assistance, there will be a need to further streamline procedures and build capacity to cope with an expanded response.