

## SUMMARY REPORT



European Parliament  
2014-2019





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## Summary

<b>Subject</b>	Delegation visit to Greece
<b>Objectives</b>	<p><b>Main objective:</b></p> <p>Greece has received a targeted support from the European Union in 2015 with an amendment of the Common Provision Regulation raising co-financing rates up to 100%. Following this amendment, REGI Committee decided to appoint a standing rapporteur for Greece and to follow closely the implementation of the CPR amendment. The delegation to Greece was part of this follow-up effort.</p> <p>The European Commission recently presented a new proposal for the CPR amendment in order to continue the top-up provisions. REGI Committee is considering this proposal at the moment.</p> <p>The delegation of the Committee on Regional Development was in Greece on 19 and 20 September in order to visit projects, to gain a clearer picture of the implementation difficulties faced by Greek beneficiaries, to better understand existing bottlenecks and to discuss the future of the cohesion policy with the Greek authorities. The delegation had the opportunity to meet local authorities as well as high-level national decisions-makers including the Deputy Prime Minister and the Deputy Minister of Economy.</p>
<b>Places</b>	<p>19-20 September 2016</p> <p>Greece: Thessaloniki, Athens</p>
<b>Participants</b>	The delegation consisted of 12 Members and substitute Members of the Committee on Regional Development (delegation members and accompanying members) ( <b>see annex</b> ).

The list of participants and the programme are attached in the annex.



**Monday 19 September 2016**

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The first part of the day consisted of:

**1. Sea Front project in Thessaloniki**



**Main topics discussed:**

- A successful revitalisation of the sea front of the city

Key people met:

- **Mr Konstantinos Belibassakis, General Manager for Technical services, Municipality of Thessaloniki / Sea Front Project Manager**
- **Mrs Lina Liakou, Deputy Mayor for Urban Resilience and Development Planning**

Unfortunately due to weather constraints the first two visits did not take place. However, the delegation was able to meet managers of both projects in the conference room of the hotel.

The day before, some members of the delegation were fortunate enough to see the project that was completed one and a half years ago. The project is a part of the overall renovation of Thessaloniki. During the meeting, members were able to discuss different aspects of the revitalisation of this part of the city including the architectural aspects as well as the legal constraints related to the ownership of the sea front. The sea front of Thessaloniki is comprised of several different parts including the city centre (a square, White Tower building and statue of Alexander the Great) as well as a new exhibition and conference centre.

During the meeting, the members also asked many questions related to the environmental aspects of the project such as the rise of the water level and the quality of the water. These are big issues for the people working on the sea front revitalization project. The gulf of Thessaloniki is a “closed gulf” and this makes the situation more difficult. There has been some criticism towards the project, but generally speaking the citizens of Thessaloniki are actively involved in the management of different gardens and other spaces created near the



sea front.

Concerning the communication efforts, the members of the delegation wanted to know why there was so little information available to the public about the EU's co-financing of the project. Legal obligations were met, but there was no extra effort to communicate the part played by the EU.

During the meeting, the members were told that Thessaloniki had also signed an EU tourist destination chart and the city had seen a growth in the number of tourists in 2015.

## 2. The Thessaloniki Metro project



### Main topics discussed:

- How to manage a project that started under the previous financial period and is still ongoing?
- What additional resources can be used to complete the project?

Key person met:

- **Mr George Konstantinidis, Attico Metro Thessaloniki Project Manager**

The Thessaloniki Metro project has been ongoing for 21 years and it has received EU funds from three different financial periods. It is also currently the most controversial project in Greece. The metro is a major venture in terms of mobility in Thessaloniki.

The project manager explained to the delegation why the project is very much delayed. In his opinion it is because the metro is being built in a historic city and the construction site has been subject to a large number of archaeological excavations. Not everyone involved shares his views though, which became clear during the discussions at the City Hall.





### 3. Meeting with Mr Yannis Boutaris, Mayor of Thessaloniki



#### **Main topics discussed:**

- Projects financed both between 2007-2013 and the current financial period in Thessaloniki area
- Difficulties in the implementation of projects, suggestions for the future, successes and failures, lessons learned

#### **Key people met:**

- **Mr Yannis Boutaris, Mayor of Thessaloniki**
- **Mrs Lina Liakou, Deputy Mayor for Urban Resilience and Development Planning**

This meeting was a good opportunity not only to come back to the already discussed projects, but also to talk about the challenges the Mayor and his team are trying to find solutions to on a daily basis. In his introductory speech, Mayor Boutaris explained the challenging circumstances faced at the moment by Greece's second biggest city.

The current municipality leadership has a mandate until May 2019. Mr Boutaris' team, which has been in place since 2012, has been working on projects such as cleaning of the sea front, completing the metro network, increasing mobility in the city as well as finding solutions to the migration crisis. So far, Thessaloniki has had 22 projects with the help of the EU funding. The Mayor said the problems with the projects were mainly due to bureaucracy and the city's lack of power in some key areas such as education and taxation. This makes municipality actions more difficult and sometimes even impossible, as the surrounding region of Macedonia does not do much to help either.

According to the Mayor, the previously mentioned delays in the metro constructions are not due to the archaeological excavations but rather to the financial difficulties of the company in charge of the project.



#### 4. Visit of the Thessaloniki Airport



Key people met:

- **Mrs Ioanna Evstathopoulou, Head of Special Service for Public Works (EYDE) in Northern Greek Airports**
- **Mr Panayiotis Mitrakos, acting Head of Administration/Finance Section, Thessaloniki Airport**

Given the time constraints, the members only received a short presentation of the Thessaloniki airport which is one of the flagship projects of the city. The airport is already operating at maximum capacity.

The project consists of two phases. The first one is the expansion of the existing runway, which requires challenging construction work on the sea. The second part is the expansion of the terminal in order to accommodate 8 million passengers per year.

*- In the early afternoon, a transfer to Athens was organized. -*





## 5. Protocol meeting with Mr Ioannis DRAGASAKIS, Deputy Prime Minister of Greece



### Main topics discussed:

- Common Provision Regulation amendment for Greece in 2015 and the follow-up and ongoing work on the CPR amendment 2016

### Key people met:

- **Mr Ioannis Dragasakis, Deputy Prime Minister**
- **Mrs Stavroula Manoli, Head of Office**
- **Mr Yiannis Eustathopoulos, Special Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister, Coordinator of the Government Council on Social Policy**
- **Mr Dimitris Kontofakas, Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister, currently serving as Coordinator of the Government Council on Economic Policy**

The Deputy Prime Minister highlighted the macroeconomic data showing that the country reached recovery in 2015 and this trend seems to continue. Government figures show 2-3% GDP growth in 2017. Unemployment is still high in Greece but decreasing slowly.

Mr Ioannis Dragasakis also stressed in his speech the importance of the islands for Greece (600 in total) and welcomed the EP resolution on islands. Previously the islands had a different VAT regime compared with the rest of the country but with the crisis, it changed.

The debt issue is also an important topic for the Greek authorities. As stated by the Deputy Prime Minister, it's not only a Greek problem, but touches upon various other member states as well. He stressed that there is a need for a common EU solution to a common EU problem. The country is at the moment excluded from the capital market and has difficulties to borrow money which creates a relation of dependency, the Deputy Prime Minister said.



Greece has moved from a centralized to a decentralized state and due to the supervision mechanisms, the hands of the government are tied in many ways. A real-life experiment is about to be launched to give 3 islands each a specific goal: one with zero CO2 emissions, another devoted to innovation etc.

Deputy Prime Minister Dragasakis called the REGI delegation to engage in a lively and open dialogue and share of experiences with the Greek authorities. In his opinion, better communication and relationships based on trust are key ingredients for success.

## **6. Working meeting with Mr Alexis CHARITSIS, Deputy Minister of Economy**



### **Main topics discussed:**

- ESIF in Greece in the previous and current programming period, lessons learned and challenges ahead
- Use of additional financial facilities following the CPR amendment for Greece

Key people met:

- **Mr Alexis Charitsis, Deputy Minister of Economy, Development & Tourism**
- **Mr Ilias Xanthakos, Secretary General of Ministry of Economy, Development & Tourism**
- **Mr Panagiotis Korkolis, Secretary General for Public Investments and NSRF (National Strategic Reference Framework)**
- **Mrs Evgenia Fotoniata, Secretary Special for ERDF & CF funded sectoral Ops**
- **Mrs Lila Kogou, Secretary Special for the Coordination and Management of AMIF/ISF**
- **Mr Georges Ioannidis, Secretary Special for the Management of Sectoral Ops of the European Social Fund**

After the discussion with the Deputy Prime Minister, the working meeting gave an opportunity to the members to have a deeper discussion with some of the major decision makers in Greek cohesion policy.



Mr Charitsis presented an analysis of the Greek situation and pointed out that his country reached 100% absorption rate by the end of 2015 for the period 2007-2013. For the current period absorption rate is around 2,5%. The Minister also underlined the improved performance of the Greek economy. However, he said that Greece still needs European Parliament support for the next proposal to increase the top-up from 75% to 95%. Greek authorities are also concerned by the use of indicators which are not suited for the current situation such as GDP per capita from the period before the crisis. He stressed that the EU should use new indicators.

As expected, the issue of migrants was also raised as one of the biggest challenges for Greece. So far, the country has spent €300 million of the national budget to address the migration crisis.

The members of the delegation asked questions ranging from the macroeconomic indicators to the implementation of the CPR amendment. The Chair of the committee, Ms Mihaylova, presented the state of play of the work in REGI Committee on the current Commission proposal for an additional top-up for 2014-2020.

Other points were discussed such as the possibility to benefit from the Juncker Plan, cutting the red tape and the Greek experience of the structural reform support service (SRSS). One of the major future questions is also who will pay after Brexit? This issue has to be solved on the level of the Council.

Mr Charitsis concluded that when talking about cohesion funds we are talking about “EU citizens’ money” and not about “EU money”. As during the previous meetings, both sides underlined the need to engage in live dialogue between the REGI Committee and the Member States applying the cohesion policy.



**Tuesday, 20 September 2016**

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## **7. Meeting with Structural Reforms Support Service**



### **Main topics discussed:**

Experiences of the Structural Reform Support Service SRSS Athens office in:

- providing overall technical assistance to the Greek authorities
- providing support to the governance of ESIF and other EU investment tools

Key person met:

- **Mr Frank Van Driessche, Head of the SRSS office in Athens, European Commission**

The purpose of this technical meeting was to provide the members of the delegation with a clear vision about the current work of the SRSS. Mr Van Driessche gave them a comprehensive presentation. He explained that based on the Memorandum of Understanding, on request technical assistance can be provided to the Greek authorities by one third of the SRSS staff members.

They currently have 22 large-scale and 35 small projects. However, the SRSS faces a challenge in terms of continuity. Some ministries are acting alone despite major efforts to coordinate work. There is also a simplification working group in the Greek administration and the SRSS is involved in this work. Mr Van Driessche mentioned that this experience could be useful for the Brussels-based discussion on simplification. He also underlined the positive effect that the REGI CPR amendments have on the work of SRSS.



**8. Project Visit with representatives of EIB: JESSICA project: “Design, Construction, Financing and Facility Management of 24 school buildings in the region of Attica”**



**Main topics discussed:**

- EIB support for urban development and cooperation with national financial intermediaries and national and local authorities
- Use of JESSICA instrument in Greece, lessons learned

**Key people met:**

- **Mr Nicholas Jennett, Deputy Director General, Head of Investment Team Greece**
- **Mr Elias Papageorgiou, JESSICA Holding Fund Officer**
- **Mr Christos Kontogeorgos, Deputy Adviser, Lending Operations in Greece**
- **Mr Yorgos Aronis, EIB Head of Office in Greece**

The REGI delegation visited the 7th primary and 6th nursery school in Gerakas, a suburb of Athens. Thanks to the Public Private Partnership (PPP) and use of the Jessica instrument, 14 schools have been constructed during the 2014-2016 period. The schools visited were the first PPP in Greece with the involvement of the European Jessica Fund and the European Investment Bank. This visit was an excellent example of use of the Jessica instrument. Members of the delegation were keen to learn more about this kind of PPP and expressed their wish to invite the project manager for a meeting in Brussels.





## 9. Press Conference



Around 13 journalists attended the press conference. They represented major media outlets of the country (e.g. broadcasting radio and TV channels, publishing companies (ERT, EL Parliament Channel, Proto Thema, Dotnews.gr, SKAI TV, Newspaper MYTIDA etc.).

You can find links to articles on page 17.

## 10. Meeting with Ms Maria Logotheti, Head of Athens Mayor's Office & Project Visit: InnovAthens.



### Main topics discussed:

- Use of EU Funds in Athens area - the InnovAthens case, Innovation Hub
- JEREMIE funds' focus on early stage

Key people met:

- **Ms Maria Logotheti, Head of Athens Mayor's Office**
- **Mr Alexandros Dimitrakopoulos, European Investment Fund, Mandate Management**
- **Mr George Tziralis, partner in JEREMIE Openfund**
- **Mr Konstantinos Bitzanis, CEO of Tecnopolis City of Athens**
- **Mr Antonis Ekonomou, Director, Tecnopolis City of Athens**
- **Mrs Sophia Manika, Site Manager, InnovAthens**
- **Mrs Monica Kassani, Communication Manager, InnovAthens**



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The delegation met with Ms Maria Logotheti and visited InnovAthens which is a part of the regional operational program 'Attica 2007-2013', priority axis 2 "Sustainable development and improving quality of life". It has been co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

This was an excellent opportunity to show an innovation hub with support services to entrepreneurs. As explained both by the Mayor of Athens and the CEO of InnovAthens, this is a showcase for other possible similar initiatives across the country. It also demonstrates the successful conversion of a former industrial site (a gas plant) to an innovation hub.

## **11. Project Visit: Theatre of Piraeus.**

**Meeting with Mr Yiorgos Gavrilis, Vice-Governor of the Attica Region & Mr Nikos Diamantis, Artistic Director of the Municipal Theatre of Piraeus**



### **Main topics discussed:**

- ESIF benefit for cultural infrastructure in Greece, lessons learned and possible ideas for the future

Key people met:

- **Mr Yiorgos Gavrilis, Vice-Governor of the Attica Region**
- **Mr Nikos Diamantis, Artistic Director of the Municipal Theatre of Piraeus**

The last visit took the REGI delegation to one of the oldest theatres in Greece that has been renovated with the support of EU Funds. In addition to an extensive explanation of the building's architecture, the artistic director of the theatre explained how the Piraeus Theatre is an active player in the city, both through a traditional programme but also by contributing to discussions on hot topics for Greece such as migration.



## Concluding remarks

Over two days and through eleven meetings and exchanges with local actors, the delegation visited a range of completed and ongoing projects.

Meetings with different political authorities (the Deputy Prime Minister, the Deputy Minister of Economy, the Mayor of Thessaloniki and representatives of the Mayor of Athens as well as of the Region of Attica) enabled the delegation to build up an overview of the various challenges that Greece faces. Lack of transparent cooperation between different levels of responsibility is one such problem. As the Mayor of Thessaloniki put this, Greece, a “centralized state” became a “dislocated state”. However, everyone expressed a wish to have regular and open contacts with Members of the European Parliament and especially the REGI Committee.

At various stages of the visit, the delegation's Greek interlocutors expressed the hope that the overall economic situation of the country is improving. Besides continuing issues surrounding migration, economic recovery, although fragile, seems to be established.

Overall, the visit by the delegation enabled the Committee to gain an overview of projects on the ground and to hold an exchange of views with national and local authorities representing (occasionally divergent) perspectives on the current difficulties of the country. Both parties, REGI delegation and local interlocutors expressed their wish to continue a constructive dialogue and cooperation.



## Media Coverage

### Links to the Articles:

- 1) Web article <http://www.capital.gr/tax/3155622/eurobouleutes-epitropis-perifereion-i-ellada-na-epituxei-auximenous-poiotikous-stoxous> "REGI Committee MEPs: Greece should achieve the increased qualitative objectives" on Capital.gr
- 2) Web article <http://www.reporter.gr/Eidhseis/Epicheirhseis/investment/300342-Eyrwboyleytes-Epitrophs-Perifereiwn-Mhnyma-axiopoihshs-toy-ESPA-2014-2020> "REGI Committee MEPs send a message of full use of the 2014-2020 funds" on Reporter.gr

The representation of the REGI EP Committee sent the message that Greece must further improve its effort for the achievement of mainly the qualitative targets in the context of the 2014-2020 EU programme. We are satisfied with the meetings and we will continue supporting Greece's efforts, MEP Iskra Mihaylova (ALDE, Bulgaria) said. She stressed that most effective and constructive work supports growth and the creation of jobs. EP Vice-President and SYRIZA MEP Dimitrios Papadimoulis (GUE/NGL, Greece) said that it is not only important to absorb the funds, but we must use them in order to boost sustainable growth, innovation, employment, social state and education. (reporter.gr)

- 3) Article on the meeting with Mr Charitsis and the high rate of absorption of Funds (big newspaper Naftemporiki) <http://portal.clipnews.gr/site/export?id=19143703>

An example -small para of the article: *"..Mr Charitsis thanked the members of the committee for their support and stressed that Greece counts on the cooperation with the European Parliament also in the future."*

- 4) Web article on the meeting with Mr Charitsis and the high rate of absorption of Funds (daily economic newspaper Express.gr)  
[http://www.express.gr/news/finance/793686oz\\_20160919793686.php3](http://www.express.gr/news/finance/793686oz_20160919793686.php3)
- 5) Article on Imerisia.gr about the visit and the briefing of the MEPs by the municipality of Athens  
<http://www.imerisia.gr/article.asp?catid=26509&subid=2&pubid=114152607>
- 6) Article on Newsbeast.gr "Greece should achieve increased qualitative objectives: message by the REGI Committee"

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<http://www.newsbeast.gr/politiki/arthro/2384217/i-ellada-prepi-na-epitichi-afximenous-piotikous-stochous>

- 7) Article in Kathimerini (one of the two biggest newspapers in Greece) on the REGI visit (the meetings it ha, the projects it visited) Title: Investments of 292 million euro in JESSICA projects

<http://portal.clipnews.gr/site/export?id=19157812>

<http://www.kathimerini.gr/876069/article/oikonomia/ellhnikh-oikonomia/ependyseis-292-ekat-eyrw-mesw-toy-jessica>



## ANNEXES

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>Lang. Spoken</b>	<b>Political Group</b>	<b>Tel. Fax BXL/STR</b>	<b>Office BXL/STR</b>
<i>Chair of the Delegation</i> <b>Ms Iskra MIHAYLOVA</b>	BG, EN	ALDE	45858/49858 75858/79858	ASP 08G305 WIC M02029
<b>Mr Pascal ARIMONT</b>	DE, FR, EN	EPP	45778/49778 75778/79778	ASP 08F343 LOW T09061
<b>Mr Andrey NOVAKOV</b>	BG, EN	EPP	45710/49710 75710/79710	ASP 08F259 LOW T11047
<b>Ms Constanze KREHL</b>	DE, EN	S&D	45134/49134 75134/79134	ASP 12G258 LOW T07013
<b>Ms Elena GENTILE</b>	IT	S&D	45250/49250 75250/79250	ASP 15G146 LOW T06054
<b>Mr Matthijs van MILTENBURG</b>	NL, EN	ALDE	45724/49724 75724/79724	ASP 08G217 WIC M02088
<b>Mr Younous OMARJEE</b>	FR	GUE/NGL	45643/49643 75643/79643	WIB 07M033 LOW T05020
<b>Ms Martina MICHELS</b>	DE	GUE/NGL	45834/49834 75834/79834	WIB 03M033 LOW T05004
<b>Ms Rosa D'AMATO</b>	IT	EFDD	45593/49593 75593/79593	ASP 07H153 WIC M03055
<b>Ms Terry REINTKE</b>	DE, EN	Greens/EFA	45760/49760 75760/79760	ASP 05F353 LOW T05121
<b>TOTAL NUMBER</b>	<b>10</b>			
<b>Accompanying MEMBERS<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Lang. Spoken</b>	<b>Political Group</b>	<b>Tel. Fax BXL/STR</b>	<b>Office BXL/STR</b>
<b>Ms Maria SPYRAKI</b>	EL, EN	EPP	45176/49176 75176/79176	ASP 08E210 LOW T10037
<b>Mr Dimitrios PAPADIMOULIS</b>	EL, EN	GUE/NGL	45399/49399 75399/79399	WIB 03M069 LOW T12046
<b>TOTAL NUMBER</b>	<b>2</b>			
<b>TOTAL NUMBER MEPs</b>	<b>12</b>			

<sup>1</sup> Accompanying Members in accordance with Article 4(1)(a) of the Bureau decision Travel by Committee delegations outside the three places of work of the EP from 2 October 2000: "Members elected in the Member State to which the delegation travels,"



<b>DG IPOL - Directorate B - Directorate for Structural and Cohesion Policies</b>	<b>Lang. spoken</b>	<b>Tel. BXL/STR</b>	<b>Office BXL/STR</b>
<b>Ms Susanne OBERHAUSER</b> Director (DG IPOL, Directorate B)	DE, EN, FR	+32 498 98 39 66 (during delegation) 43048/73871	SQM 07Y026 SDM G04035A
<b>Mr Alexandre ROGALSKI</b> Administrator (secretariat of the Committee on Regional Development)	PL, EN, FR	+32 472 58 04 13 (during delegation) 43508/74448	SQM 07Y008 SDM G04007
<b>Ms Kate ina HANZLÍKOVÁ</b> Assistant (secretariat of the Committee on Regional Development)	CS, EN, ES, PT	+32 475 829 767 43705/73891	SQM 07Y090 SDM G04006
<b>TOTAL NUMBER</b>	<b>3</b>		
<b>POLITICAL GROUP STAFF</b>	<b>Lang. spoken</b>	<b>Tel. BXL/STR</b>	<b>Office BXL/STR</b>
<b>Ms Madalina Georgiana STOIAN (EPP)</b>	EN, RO, FR	42528/78114	ASP 05H340 WIC M04111
<b>Ms Rasa RUDZKYTE (S&amp;D)</b>	LT, EN, DE, FR, PL, RU	31106/76716	ATR 04L004 SDM G03017
<b>Mr Tudor-Bogdan ROGIN (ALDE)</b>	FR, EN, RO	32747/72816	PHS 55C099 WIC M04019
<b>Mr Georgios KARATSIOUBANIS (GUE/NGL)</b>	EL, EN	32595/74398	PHS 05C007 SDM G04022
<b>Ms Simone REINHART (Greens/EFA)</b>	DE, EN	42202/74796	PHS 04C059 WIC M03010
<b>Mr Andrea PICONE (EFDD)</b>	,	30331/64919	ATR 09K087 WIC M03023
<b>TOTAL NUMBER</b>	<b>6</b>		
<b>OTHERS</b>	<b>Lang. spoken</b>	<b>Tel.</b>	<b>Office</b>
<b>Mr Matti KANKAANPAA</b> (Technician for 'Valise')	FI, EN	31085	PHS 01B051
<b>Mr Leonidas ANTONAKOPOULOS</b> (EP officer in Athens)	EL, EN	50024/74356	ATH BUR. INF
<b>Mr Antonis SARTZETAKIS</b> (EC administrator, participating only in Thessaloniki's part of the programme)	EL, EN	+32 229 68595	BU-1 05/130
<b>Mr Theodosios SAMPANIOTIS</b> (EC administrator, participating only in Athens's part of the programme)	EL, EN	+32 229 67373	BU-1 04/133





<b><i>TOTAL NUMBER</i></b>	<b>4</b>		
<b><i>INTERPRETERS (DE/EL/EN/FR/IT/)</i></b>	<b><i>Main lang.</i></b>	<b><i>Linguistic profile</i></b>	
<b><i>Team Leader</i></b>			
<b>Ms Barbara CARLI-GANOTIS</b>	<b>IT</b>	FR/DE/NL/EN/ES	
<b>Ms Ingrid Caroline Brenda BEHRMANN</b>	<b>DE</b>	FR/IT/EN/EL	
<b>Ms Monika WELLING</b>	<b>DE</b>	FR/EN/EL/SV	
<b>Ms Ekaterini SDRAKA</b>	<b>EL</b>	FR/IT/EN/ES/PT	
<b>Ms Daria TSAGARAKI</b>	<b>EL</b>	FR/DE/NL/EN/ES	
<b>Ms Susan Jennifer FEARNside</b>	<b>EN</b>	FR/DE/IT/EL/ES	
<b>Mr Jose Ramon FISHER RODRIGUEZ</b>	<b>EN</b>	FR/IT/EL/ES	
<b>Ms Stalia GEORGOULIS</b>	<b>FR</b>	DE/EN/EL/ES	
<b>Ms Irene SEVASTIKOGLOU</b>	<b>FR</b>	IT/EN/EL/RU	
<b>Mr Marco SAVELLA</b>	<b>IT</b>	FR/EN/EL/ES/PT	
<b><i>TOTAL NUMBER</i></b>	<b>10</b>		
<b><i>TOTAL PARTICIPANTS NUMBER</i></b>	<b>35</b>		



## PROGRAMME

### COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT Delegation to GREECE (Thessaloniki & Athens)

19 & 20 September 2016

**Monday morning 19 September 2016**

#### THESSALONIKI

*Individual arrivals of the Members and the staff to Thessaloniki the evening before, on 18 September 2016*

#### **The Hotel in Thessaloniki chosen for the delegation:**

##### **HOTEL MAKEDONIA PALACE**

2, Megalou Alexandrou Avenue,  
GR-54640, Thessaloniki, Greece

Tel: (+30) 2310 897197 / Fax: (+30) 2310 897211

Email: [reservations@makedoniapalace.gr](mailto:reservations@makedoniapalace.gr)  
<http://www.makedoniapalace.com/>

#### **08:00 - 09:00 - Project Visit: Sea Front Project**

Main interlocutors:

- Mr Konstantinos Belibassakis, General Manager for Technical services, Municipality of Thessaloniki / Sea Front Project Manager
- Mrs Lina Liakou, Deputy Mayor for Urban Resilience and Development Planning

Meeting at Makedonia Palace Hotel with the Project Manager of the Sea Front Project & short presentation and site inspection.

*Venue: Sea Front Promenade, Thessaloniki*

#### **09:15 - 11:00 - Project Visit: Metro**

Main interlocutors:

- Mr George Konstantinidis, Attico Metro Thessaloniki Project Manager
- Mrs Lina Liakou, Deputy Mayor for Urban Resilience and Development Planning

Site inspection of the Metro Stations under construction (University station and Venizelou station) & short presentation from the Project Manager.



Possible topic for discussion:

- How to manage project started under previous financial period and still ongoing?
- What additional sources for the final achievement?

*Venue: University metro station and Venizelou metro station, Thessaloniki*

**11:15 - 12:15 - Meeting with Mr Yannis Boutaris, Mayor of Thessaloniki & Thessaloniki Project Managers**

Main interlocutors:

- Mr Yannis Boutaris, Mayor of Thessaloniki
- Mr Apostolos Tzitzikostas, Region of Central Macedonia
- Mr Lazaros Kyrizoglou, President of Regional Association of Municipalities of Central Macedonia
- Mr George Konstantinidis, Attico Metro Thessaloniki Project Manager
- Mr Panayiotis Mitrakos, Head of Administration/Finance Section, Thessaloniki Airport
- Mrs Ioanna Evstathopoulou, Head of Special Service for Public Works (EYDE) in Northern Greek Airports
- Mrs Lina Liakou, Deputy Mayor for Urban Resilience and Development Planning

Meeting at the Municipality of Thessaloniki with the Mayor of Thessaloniki, representatives of Central Macedonia region, Thessaloniki's Deputy Mayors, Project Managers of all three projects and other related experts.

Possible topic for discussion:

- Projects financed under 2007-2013 and current financial period in Thessaloniki area
- Difficulties in the implementation of projects, suggestions for the future - Success and failures: lessons learned

*Venue: Thessaloniki City Hall, Vasileos Georgiou street 1, 546 40*

**12:15 -12:45 - Coffee break & Meeting with the Press**

*Venue: Thessaloniki City Hall, Vasileos Georgiou street 1, 546 40*

**13:15 -13:30 - Project Visit: Thessaloniki Airport**

Main interlocutors:

- Mrs Ioanna Evstathopoulou, Head of Special Service for Public Works (EYDE) in



Northern Greek Airports

- Mr Ioannis Voyatzis, Deputy Airport Manager, Hellenic Civil Aviation Authority
- Mr Georgios Karras, Head of Airport Operations Section
- Mr Panayiotis Mitrakos, acting Head of Administration/Finance Section, Thessaloniki Airport

Site inspection of the Airport Project.

*Venue: Thessaloniki airport “Macedonia”, 55103 Kalamaria, Thessaloniki*

**14:30 - 15:20** - Flight Thessaloniki - Athens - A3 115 19SEP 1 SKGATH 1430 1520

**Monday afternoon 19 September 2016**

**ATHENS**

**15:45** - Transfer from the airport

**16:30 - 18:00** - Protocol visit to the Deputy Prime Minister Mr Dragasakis

Main interlocutors:

- Mr Ioannis Dragasakis – Deputy Prime Minister
- Mrs Stavroula Manoli, Head of Office
- Mr Yiannis Eustathopoulos, Special Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister, Coordinator of the Government Council on Social Policy
- Mr Dimitris Kontofakas, Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister, currently serving as Coordinator of the Government Council on Economic Policy

The Deputy Prime Minister will provide an overview of the current situation as well as future prospects and possible challenges for the Greek economy and society.

Possible topics for discussion:

- Common Provision Regulation amendment for Greece in 2015 and his follow-up and ongoing work on the CPR amendment 2016

*Venue: 10, Zalogosta Street, Syntagma, 106 71 Athens*

**18:00 – 19:30** - Working meeting with Minister and Deputy Minister of Economy, Development & Tourism Mr Stathakis and Mr Charitsis

Main interlocutors:

- Mr Georgios Stathakis – Minister of Economy, Development & Tourism
- Mr Alexis Charitsis – Deputy Minister of Economy, Development & Tourism



Possible topic for discussion:

- ESIF in Greece in the current and previous programming periods. Lessons learned and challenges ahead.
- Use of additional financial facilities following CPR amendment for Greece.

*Venue: 5-7, Nikis str., Syntagma Square, Athens, 101 80, 3rd floor, office 305*

**19:30 - Transfer to the hotel & individual dinners**

**The Hotel in Athens chosen for the delegation:**

**HOTEL N.J.V ATHENS PLAZA**

2, Vasileos Georgiou A' str., Syntagma square, Athens,

Tel: +30 21 0335 2400 / Fax: +30 210 32 35 856

E-mail: [welcome@njvathensplaza.gr](mailto:welcome@njvathensplaza.gr)

<http://www.njvathensplaza.gr/en/default.html>

**Tuesday 20 September 2016**

**ATHENS**

**07:45 - Departure from the hotel**

**08:00 - 09:30 - Meeting with Structural Reforms Support Service**

**Main interlocutor:**

- Mr Frank Van Driessche, SRSS Coordinator for Greece, European Commission

Topics for discussion:

**Experiences of the SRRS Athens office in**

- providing overall technical assistance to the Greek authorities
- providing support to the governance of ESIF and other EU investment tools

**Q&A session**

*Venue: SRSS premises, 1st floor, 132 Peiraios street, 105 64 Athens*

**10:00 - 11:30 - Project Visit with representatives of EIB: JESSICA project: "Design, Construction, Financing and Facility Management of 24 school buildings in the region of Attica"**

<http://www.eib.org/products/blending/jessica/>



Main interlocutors:

- Mr Nicholas Jennett, Deputy Director General, Head of Investment Team Greece (tbc)
- Mr Elias Papageorgiou, JESSICA Holding Fund Officer
- Mr Christos Kontogeorgos, Deputy Adviser, Lending Operations in Greece (tbc)
- Mr Yorgos Aronis, EIB Head of Office in Greece

Possible topic for discussion:

- EIB support for Urban Development and cooperation with national financial intermediaries and national and local authorities
- Use of JESSICA instrument in Greece, lessons learned

*Venue: 7th primary and 6th nursery school in Gerakas: 11B, Aisopou Str, Gerakas, Municipality of Pallini*

**12:00- 13:00 - Press Conference**

*Venue: EP information office, 8 Leof. Amalias, GR-105 57 Athens*

**13:00 - 14:30 - Lunch break**

**15:00 - 16:30 - Meeting with Ms Maria Logotheti, Head of Athens Mayor's Office & Project Visit: InnovAthens**

<http://www.eib.org/products/blending/jeremie/index.htm>

<http://www.innovathens.gr/innovathens-en-2/>

Main interlocutors:

- Ms Maria Logotheti, Head of Athens Mayor's Office
- Mr Alexandros Dimitrakopoulos, European Investment Fund, Mandate Management
- Mr George Tziralis, partner in JEREMIE Openfund
- Mr Konstantinos Bitzanis, CEO of Tecnopolis City of Athens
- Mr Antonis Ekonomou, Director, Tecnopolis City of Athens
- Mrs Sophia Manika, Site Manager, InnovAthens
- Mrs Monica Kassani, Communication Manager, InnovAthens

Meeting with Ms Maria Logotheti and visit of InnovAthens: INNOVATHENS is part of the regional operational program 'Attica 2007-2013 ', Priority Axis (2):" Sustainable development and improving quality of life" of "Attica 2007-2013", co-financed from the European Regional Development Fund

Possible topic for discussion:





- Use of EU Funds in Athens area - InnovAthens case, Innovation Hub
- JEREMIE funds' focus on early stage

*Venue: InnovAthens, Pireos 100, 118 54 Athens*

**17:00 - 18:30** - Meeting with Mr Yiorgos Gavrilis, Vice-Governor of the Attica Region & Project Visit: Theatre of Piraeus

Main interlocutors:

- Mr Yiorgos Gavrilis, Vice-Governor of the Attica Region
- Mr Yiannis Moralis, Mayor of Piraeus (tbc)
- Mr Nikos Diamantis, Artistic Director of the Municipal Theatre of Piraeus

Possible topic for discussion:

- ESIF added value for cultural infrastructure in Greece. Lessons learned and possible ideas for the future.

*Venue: Municipal Theatre of Piraeus, Leof. Iroon Politechniou 32, 185 35 Piraeus*

**19:00** End of the Delegation, transfer to the hotel and/or individual departures