

**Greece's contribution to the Working Group IV:
Public access to justice**

1) Under application of Law 2721/99, the institution of appointment of a counsel through official authority is implemented as provided for in article 96 A of the Civil Procedure Code and the conditions of application of the above article are specified, including the case when a defendant against whom criminal prosecution is exercised at the degree of minor offense, cannot afford a Lawyer, and he/she files a related request to the head of the court services or the judge who administers the Court, and he/she is required to do so prior to the hearing. If the sustainability of the request is speculated, a counsel is appointed out of the list drafted by the proper Bar.

2) Under Law 3226 (Government Gazette 24 A/4.2.2004), legal aid is provided to low-income citizens. In particular, article 1 of the above law specifies that beneficiaries of legal aid are the low-income citizens of a member state of the European Union, the citizens of low-income coming from a third country and the stateless persons, provided they have legally obtained residence or permanent residence in the European Union. In accordance with article 3, beneficiaries of legal aid are also the victims of certain crimes committed against personal freedom, sexual freedom and the crimes of economic exploitation of the sexual life, as regards any criminal and civil claims.

3) In addition, pursuant to article 5 of the above law, legal aid may be provided on criminal cases by the prosecutors on duty and the prosecutors superintendents serving at detention centers, and on civil cases by the presidents of the local competent Courts, by whom the persons concerned will

be informed of the possibility of being part of the legal aid system for low-income citizens.

4) The provision of legal aid in civil and commercial cases, pursuant to article 9 of the same law, consists in the discharge of the payment of part or all the costs of the proceedings and provided it is especially required, in the appointment of a lawyer, a notary public and a process server, who will be ordered to defend a beneficiary, to represent him/her in court and to provide the assistance he/she needs for the necessary acts to take place.

The legal aid is provided separately at each hearing, it is effective in each instance of cause for each court, and also concerns the compulsory enforcement of a court judgment.

Furthermore, all citizens have access to the court Clerk's offices of the local Courts for the purpose of seeking advice during working days and hours.