The DAC’s First Review of Greece’s Development Co-operation Policies and Programmes

Greece increased its total net disbursements of official development assistance (ODA) substantially to USD 226 million, or 0.20% of its gross national income (GNI), in 2000 as compared to USD 194 million, or 0.15% of GNI, in 1999 when it became the latest Member of the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC). The DAC welcomed this first review of Greece’s aid policies and programmes and noted that Greece has clearly made a good start in building up its aid effort, almost reaching the average of the 22 DAC Member countries of 0.22 % of GNI in 2000.

Guided by the government’s first Five-Year Programme of Development Co-operation (1997 to 2001), Greece established units with special responsibilities for the Greek aid system within the Ministries of National Economy and Foreign Affairs. It mobilised committees at the political and official levels to manage specific aspects of the bilateral aid programme, including setting overall strategy, and is working through and with an impressive number of Greek ministries/agencies, universities, consultants, businesses and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The leadership of the aid programme is now being unified under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (“Hellenic Aid”).

Greece’s total aid/GNI objective was reached one year ahead of schedule because Greece responded to crises in the Balkans with substantial participation by the Hellenic Armed Forces in emergency assistance and rehabilitation. As these emergencies recede, Greece is preparing to allocate the funding to longer-term development activities targeting basic sources of poverty. This will require active planning for a rapid and major scaling up of selected ministries/agencies’ development activities, backed up by steps to assure aid quality and effectiveness as the programme expands.

The DAC review highlighted the important contribution that Greece has to offer to support sustainable development and poverty reduction in its complicated multicultural neighbouring regions and welcomed Greece’s efforts to consolidate management of its aid programme. As Greece prepares its new Five-Year Programme of Development Co-operation for the period 2002 to 2006, the guidance provided by the Review will help Greece to implement good international practices for development co-operation as espoused by the DAC.

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Paris, 15 March 2002
The DAC Chairman, Mr Jean-Claude Faure, summarised the Committee's recommendations aimed at supporting Greece's endeavours both to build on its achievements to date and raise its ambitions for the next phase of expansion. Mr Faure welcomed the open quality of the Greek presentations in this regard and felt sure that the Secretariat and other DAC Members would be ready to contribute their experience to these endeavours. The Committee noted that Greece should further develop the objectives of its aid programme and implement coherent government-wide policies on poverty reduction, gender equality and the environment, including the contribution of sustainable poverty reduction to regional security and welfare. It should ensure that the new organisational structures promote efficient and effective development co-operation goals by developing a framework to assist decision-making and budget allocations for both bilateral aid and multilateral allocations. The Greek government, in particular the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in its new capacity, should enhance the relevant knowledge, skills and experience of people managing and administering the development co-operation programme, both in Athens and in the field. And, to reinforce public support, it should increase efforts to inform Parliamentarians and the public of the results of activities funded by the official Greek aid programme.

At the review meeting on 12 March 2002, the Greek delegation was led by Mr Minas Stavrakakis, General Secretary for International Relations, Ministry of National Economy. Mr Alex Rondos, General Director, Hellenic International Development Co-operation Department, represented the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The examining countries were Finland and Spain.

The Main Findings and Recommendations arising from the DAC review will be available as from next week on the DAC/OECD internet site at http://www.oecd.org/dac. A full record of the review will be published in the DAC Journal.
### Greece's aid at a glance

#### GREECE

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current (USD m)</td>
<td>Change</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constant (1999 USD m)</td>
<td>Change</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>35.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In Drachmas (million)</td>
<td>Change</td>
<td>59 347</td>
<td>82 593</td>
<td>39.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>ODA/GNI</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.15%</td>
<td>0.20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bilateral share</td>
<td></td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>44%</td>
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#### Net Official Aid (OA)

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<tr>
<td>Current (USD m)</td>
<td>Change</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
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#### Top Ten Recipients of Gross ODA/OA (USD million)

1. Yugoslavia (incl. Kosovo) 44
2. Albania 21
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina 4
4. Palestinian Adm. Areas 3
5. Armenia 3
6. Bulgaria (OA) 2
7. Romania (OA) 2
8. FRY Macedonia 2
9. Lebanon 1
10. Turkey 1

#### By Income Group (USD m)

- LLDCs
- Other Low-Income
- Lower Middle-Income
- Upper Middle-Income
- High-Income
- Unallocated

#### By Region (USD m)

- Sub-Saharan Africa
- South and Central Asia
- Other Asia and Oceania
- Middle East and North Africa
- Latin America and Caribbean
- Europe
- Unspecified

#### By Sector

- Education, Health & Population
- Other Social Infrastructure
- Economic Infrastructure
- Production
- Multisector
- Programme Assistance
- Debt Relief
- Emergency Aid
- Unspecified

Source: OECD
Net ODA from DAC countries in 2000

Per cent of GNI

USD billion

Source: OECD.