

Plan. The Committee is legally responsible to control whether the proposals are appropriate for the building of viable governance structures in the recipient states.

The Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs, who will take the final decision, is not formally bound by the recommendation of the Committee. However, this does mean that he can act arbitrarily. The Minister's decisions need to be reasoned and if he deviates from the recommendation without a good reason, then the decision can be annulled by the Supreme Administrative Court (Council of State) for lack of sufficient reasoning or abuse of discretionary power.

Moreover, the Greek political authorities incur responsibility vis-à-vis the Parliament, if they do not exercise the necessary diligence for the realization of the objectives of the Plan. Law 2996/2002 has introduced here an additional control mechanism. The Greek Monitoring Committee draws up an annual Report on the course of each Program. This Report is submitted to the Greek Parliament and to the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The parliamentary control is here very important, because it enables the members of the Parliament to focus on eventual inconsistencies and deviations from the objectives of the legislation and of the bilateral agreements. It therefore enhances the transparency of the implementation of the programs and the realization of its core element, which is the support for democratic governance and for the rule of law in the recipient countries.

The last "safety valve" which serves as a deterrent against eventual misuse and, in that sense, also advances the realization of the Plan is the possibility of denouncing or suspending the bilateral agreements. The suspension or denunciation is legitimate in only two cases:

First, breach by one of the Parties of the terms and conditions of the Agreement, particularly in the case of prolonged and unjustified delays in the completion of the activities foreseen by the Agreement, as well as severe mismanagement of the funds.

Second, adverse developments, which seriously hamper the realization of the objectives of the Agreement. If the above conditions are met, the suspension or denunciation may follow at any time after due notification to the other Party.

As a conclusion, we may say that the building of good governance structures in SEE lies at the heart of the Greek Plan for the Economic Reconstruction of the region. It belongs to its core objectives and its realization is guaranteed by the decision-making procedures provided for by the Plan. The creation and support of good governance is not only related with the objective of the specific projects selected under the Plan, but it should also constitute a dimension of the activities related to the overall economic reconstruction of the region. Purpose of the Plan and the bilateral programs is to set a standard for development and encourage "rational" and "healthy" economic activities.